

No.1 for Crafters

Last-minute
XMAS CARDS
YOU'LL LOVE!

200 CRAFT ESSENTIALS INSIDE

Issue 274 Dec 2014 £5.99

Crafts

BEAUTIFUL

Cut & Sew
Stocking
IN SIMPLE STEPS

p94



BROTHER Scan & Cut ON TEST ★ CLEVER QUILLING ★ DESIGNER PAPERCRAFTS

102

FESTIVE PROJECTS

TEMPLATES TO COPY

Christmas Wrapped up!

COME TO US FOR MAGICAL SEASONAL
IDEAS TO STAMP, PAINT AND STITCH



**CREATE
& CRAFT
STAR**
STEPHANIE
WEIGHTMAN'S
GIFT GUIDE



HOW TO... STENCIL
SNOWFLAKES



PAPER TRIMMINGS



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Cosy Weekend
Knit

Plus DRAW MOTIFS OVER CHINA ★ GET FESTIVE WITH DUCK TAPE
★ 10 THRIFTY CELEBRATION MAKES ★ JULIE DODSWORTH EXCLUSIVE

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Welcome crafters...



What we love this issue...



Our fabulous designer cards are perfect for gifting



Never waste paper - simply craft it into festive decs



Kids will love to make this Scandi-style wreath



There's nothing **nicer** than receiving a gift that has been **created** with care and attention. Here at CB, we are all about the making and the giving, so we've made sure that your **favourite mag** is full to bursting with **brilliant ideas** for gifting or simply to **transform** your home into a cosy haven.

Our card designs will offer **inspiration** even if you have been in full card production since the early autumn! Send your **handmade creations** early to be sure that they take **pride of place** in the homes of friends and family all around the country. And, why not get the kids involved too? Kitty Frampton's stamped set (p19) is **really fun** to do and Colette Smith's **pudding cards** have artwork which is easy to copy (p84).

Bearing in mind that this time of year can be very expensive, we've also included some **thrifty** ways to help keep a tight check on the Christmas budget (p58). That's not all - take a trip down **memory lane** with our Christmas nostalgia feature (p86), plus there are some toasty mitts to knit in sparkly yarn ready for the **party season** (p100). All that's left for me to say is... put on the kettle and pass the mince pies, please!

From everyone on the CB team, have a very merry Christmas.

Sarah

Sarah Crosland, Editor

Who's in CB this month?



CB chats to artist and homewares designer **JULIE DODSWORTH** about her passion for painting and life on a barge



Top designer and author **CATHERINE WORAM** shows us how to recreate a vintage Christmas



Craft and TV celeb **JOANNA SHEEN** shares her card making tips on our Ask the Experts pages



Create and Craft's **STEPHANIE WEIGHTMAN** looks ahead to spring with her fave products

Our Craft Promise

- ♥ All our projects are graded to suit a range of skill levels with clear step-by-step instructions
- ♥ We aim to source the best products, stories and personalities from the craft world
- ♥ Every issue comes with a high-quality free gift and an exclusive subscription offer



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Next issue...

January 2015 issue on sale 12th December 2014

Available on the App Store

Crafts Beautiful is now available to download from the App Store

Write to us! Crafts Beautiful, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY **Get in touch** sarah.crosland@aceville.co.uk

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FOR DETAILS TURN TO PAGE 36



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& Julia Wherrell

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Make it!

ADD A FESTIVE FLOURISH TO
YOUR DÉCOR WITH SIMPLE

Decoupage letters

Craft tip

To prevent the brown colour of the letter blank from showing through, seal the surface first with a couple of coats of white craft paint



Plain blanks ready for decorating are easy to find in most good craft shops and Christmas is the perfect excuse to have some fun with lettering. Play around with words like Noel, Jolly, and even Jingle Bells. Once decorated, you will have created a statement piece that can be used year after year. Our plain papier maché blanks are covered with gingham and polka dot paper. The letters are then trimmed with contrasting bands of ricrac braid and

tiny buttons. Once completed, display on a mantelpiece or set in a bay window to welcome your guests this Christmas time.

SOURCE IT...

Papier maché letters, Craft Mill,
0161 284 5888, craftmill.co.uk
Decoupage papers, Crafty Crocodiles,
0845 463 4100, craftycrocodiles.co.uk

READER DETAILS

The project has been adapted from Christmas Crafts by Catherine Woram (Cico Books, £12.99) with photography © Caroline Barber. To order a copy visit, cicobooks.com



How to use your FREE GIFT

CREATE A SELECTION OF WOODLAND-THEMED
MAKES WITH OUR BUMPER STAMP, FELT
AND DECOUPAGE KIT



WHAT YOU NEED

- Your FREE Forest Friends kit
- Card blank, kraft, square
- Thread, embroidery
- Beads, black
- Ink-pads: VersaMark, Watermark; paprika
- Embossing powder, copper
- Needle, darning
- Skewers, wooden
- Adhesives: spray; tape, sticky; double-sided; foam pads, 3-D

Fox greeting

- 1 Stick decoupage paper to a large card circle, cut in half, then glue a semi-circle to each side of a kraft card square blank.
- 2 Mount a yellow circle onto a green scalloped one and stick to the centre using foam pads. Trim a smaller white circle and stamp a fox in the centre using a VersaMark watermark ink-pad. Emboss with copper powder and adhere the fox to the yellow circle.

Bird party sticks

- 1 Use the wooden bird shape as a template to draw and cut two bodies from red felt, then lay one piece on top of the other. Trim a yellow wing shape and pin into place. Over-sew the wing to the bird using green embroidery thread, adding decorative lines at the widest point.
- 2 Secure a small black bead for an eye. Sew the two shapes wrong sides together, starting from the bottom of the bird. Use long stitches to form a beak. Leave a gap at the bottom and stuff with toy filling. Push a skewer into the bird and sew up the gap, securing the skewer as you do so. Create more birds, alternating the colours.



S *Subscribe Today!* You will receive a XCut glue kit! Turn to page 36 for details



Stamped card

1 Mark 32 evenly spaced dots around the outer edge of a white circle and, using it as a guide, mark and punch adjacent holes onto a large green blank. Use a darning needle to pull orange twine through a hole, then secure the end to the inside using tape. Thread the twine nine holes away from the start point, then return the thread to the hole next to the start point.

2 Continue working around the circle using this method, then stick down the end. Cut out a white circle to the same size as the blank aperture and stamp a fox in paprika ink, then matt onto larger orange card. Stick to the front using double-sided tape. **CB**

More projects online!

Find more projects to make using your woodland-themed kit online at crafts-beautiful.com



Your Exclusive Gift NEXT MONTH

We've got a delightful Little Book of Keepsake Crafts filled with a selection of vintage-themed makes

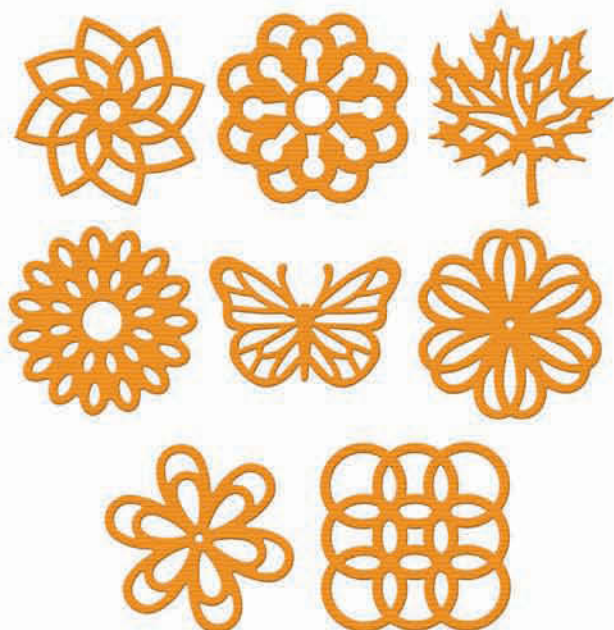


January
issue on
sale 12th
December



What's inside:

- Bonus projects reminiscent of what mother used to make
- Vintage-inspired products
- Household remedies and tips
- Decorative papers for you to use



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5 ways with... SIMPLE SHAPES

CHANGE UP YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS WITH THEMED
SHAPES AND PRETTY LAYERING



turn over for projects

5 ways with... SIMPLE SHAPES

WHAT YOU NEED

- Papers, Snow Day, Lawn Fawn
- Dies, Xcut: Nested Circle, Christmas Tree, Star
- Die-cut sentiments, Pippinwood Christmas, docrafts
- Card, matt, gold
- Cardstock: green, white
- Ribbon: red; spotted, blue
- Button, red
- Embroidery thread, green
- Punches: owl, star
- Embossing tool
- Pen, gel, white
- Adhesives

Cosy Mitten

1 Create a simple template of a mitten.

Trace around it onto a folded card blank, allowing some of the shape to be on the folded edge. Don't cut out the folded edge.

Trace another mitten from green patterned paper, cut out, and attach to the card base.

2 Trim white lined paper with a sentiment on and attach to the bottom of the mitten, so it acts as a cuff. Round the edges and fix with foam pads. Tie ribbon around the top of the cuff into a bow. Draw faux white stitches around the green paper to finish.



Shape it out

When designing your own shaped cards, it often comes down to trial and error. You've got to ensure they're not top-heavy, that they stand correctly, and that there's plenty of room to compose a lovely greeting inside. They're exceptionally fun to make, so why not try your hand at some this Christmas? As well as our chosen shapes here, you could also give stockings, candy canes, gingerbread men and Santa's sleigh a go.

Five-Point Star

1 Die-cut a large star from a folded piece of white cardstock that's larger than the star – move the folded edge slightly below the cutting one, so it doesn't cut a complete shape and misses trimming all of the folded edge.

2 Cut three different sizes of star from three patterned papers. Punch a tiny hole from a small die-cut sentiment and attach to the base. Draw white gel pen dashes around the red star layer.



Boughs of Holly

1 Create a simple template of a holly leaf. Trace around it four times onto green cardstock and cut out. Make a 'hinge' of cardstock by folding a piece, 2cm x 10cm, in half. Attach the holly leaves onto it – two on the front and two on the back.

2 Cut two more leaves from patterned paper. Using an embossing tool, make 'vein lines' on the leaves. Add faux stitches onto the leaves using a white gel pen.

3 Trim circles from pink paper for berries and add white curves in white. Add the berries to the base of the holly using foam pads. Tie a bow from blue ribbon and adhere to the card, along with a sentiment from Snow Day papers.



Share it!

Christmas Tree

1 Die-cut two large Christmas tree shapes. Make a 'hinge' of cardstock by folding a piece, 2cm x 10cm, in half. Attach the Christmas trees to either side of it.

2 Cut a smaller sized Christmas tree from Snow Day paper and adhere centrally to the tree. Punch tiny hearts from pink and blue paper, then attach onto the tree over three strands of green embroidery thread in a garland-style pattern.

3 Add brown paper onto the trunk, followed by a strip of blue ribbon. Stick a tiny heart to the middle of the trunk. Punch a gold star and fix to the top of the tree.



"I HAD SO MUCH FUN MAKING THESE CARDS THAT I MIGHT CREATE MORE SHAPES AND TURN THEM INTO MANTELPiece BUNTING!"

Keren Baker, Designer



Craft tip

Making a card for your partner? Tweak the holly card to create a mistletoe greeting



Beautiful Bauble

1 Die-cut a large circle from a folded piece of white cardstock that's larger than the circle – move the folded edge slightly below the cutting edge, so it doesn't cut a complete shape and misses trimming all of the folded edge. Die-cut another circle from pink, followed by a smaller circle.

2 Attach the large pink circle to the card base. Add the inner circle to one side so there is an arc of white showing. Adhere a sentiment using foam pads, then tie a bow from blue spotted ribbon and fix to the left. Stick a red button to the left of this. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Lawn Fawn Snow Day papers, Sprinkle Twinkle, 01553 770807, sprinkle-twinkle.co.uk

Xcut dies, Mountain Ash Crafts, 01384 221554, macrafts.com



Make it! Been inspired by our creations? Send yours to social.cb@aceville.co.uk to be featured!



YARN STORY

This cute bobble hat can be crocheted with ease from just two balls of Magic yarn. The wool/acrylic mix is a dream to work and machine washable too. Finish off the crochet using a handy pompom maker – it's a fun way to create that all-important finishing touch. bergerefrance.com



Fairy Tales

Fans of Tracey Dutton's mystical designs will be thrilled with her latest collection of hand drawn Fairies and Flowers stamps.

The beautiful imagery can be used in combination with the versatile Scene-Scapes – which have been purposely designed to work with the new stamp range.

Find out more at laviniaistamps.co.uk

TABLE TALK

'Dear Santa, please bring me a CraftMaster hobby table for Christmas!'

Whether you're making cards or painting, we think that this is an essential bit of kit for your craft room.

The table has a unique tilt mechanism and plenty of storage, so you can work in comfort with all tools in easy reach. With prices starting at just £170, it's a worthwhile investment that will give you years of crafting enjoyment. graphicsdirect.co.uk



Inspiration for... DECEMBER

ENJOY OUR PICK OF CREATIVE THINGS
TO DO, SEE AND BUY



WINTER WONDERS

Stock up on Christmas essentials that won't blow the budget and pop into your local Poundland. From knitting yarns to card making kits, you'll find something crafty to suit family and friends for just £1 – what's not to like?

0800 731 5622, poundland.co.uk



IT'S SHOW TIME

Silhouette's brand-new CAMEO-2 digital die-cutting system has some exciting added features to shout about: an interactive touch screen which offers animated video tutorials and Pix Scan technology that enables crafters to scan and cut pre-printed sheets. Whether you're a designer-maker or just starting out, this is one for the Christmas wish list. For further details, call 01978 666700, graphtecgb.co.uk

CLEAN SWEEP

The beauty of soap making is that you can do it in the kitchen without any specialist equipment. A simple melt and pour base can easily be enhanced with fragrance oils or natural products like lavender and dried rosebuds to make scented stocking fillers for all the family. Find everything you need to get started at The Soap Kitchen, thesoapkitchen.co.uk



Turn to p82:
we've got a bundle
of Posca Pens up
for grabs worth
£150!

Make Merry

Add painterly touches to your Christmas crafting using uni Posca multi-purpose colouring pens. The metallic range is especially good for decorating cards or tags and even creating simple decs for the tree. The pens can be applied easily onto almost any surface and come in 40 colours with seven tip sizes for you to experiment with. posca.com

Luxury Look

Swarovski has introduced two fabulous new trends for the winter called Poetic Punk Rock and Nostalgic Grandeur. Also, adding his creative credentials to the collaboration, Jean Paul Gaultier takes the theme to a new level with an assortment of co-ordinating couture pieces with a cool, contemporary edge. Visit i-beads.co.uk for details.



For Your Diary

✿ **11th-13th December** Outlaw Christmas Market, Moor Piazza, Falmouth, will showcase over 30 of the very best artisan craft, food and drink producers from across Cornwall and Devon. Take the opportunity



to shop and find a handmade gift for someone special. There'll also be live music and delicious food – a brilliant way to celebrate the festive season! Admission free.

✿ **29th November-22nd December** Blackthorpe Barn, Roughham Estate, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Real Christmas Trees and Natural Decorations. This fabulous venue is a one-stop-shop for all things festive and not to be missed. **01359 270880, blackthorpebarn.com**

✿ **7th December** Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, Nostell Priory and Parkland, West Yorkshire. Priced £15 (booking essential). For more information, call **01924 863892**.



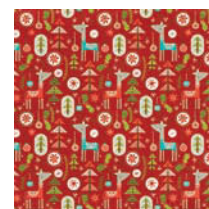
COOL YULE

This festive paper collection by Fancy Pants Designs has caught our eye.

The Oh Deer range is perfect for all your Christmas

papercrafts, from scrapbook layouts to cards and present tags. You can use

embellishments, ephemera, textured card and chipboard that all work together to give a beautifully co-ordinated look. fancypantsdesigns.com





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ADD SHIMMER AND SHINE TO YOUR DÉCOR
WITH THERESA MOMBER'S ELEGANT

Snowflake CANDLE

WHAT YOU NEED

Spellbinders® products:

- Grand Calibur® Machine
- Die, Snowflake Bliss (S4-433)

Other products:

- Card: textured, white; plain, red, gold
- Gem, red
- Paper trimmer
- Glitter, iridescent
- Brad, pearl

Craft tip

This elegant candle will look stunning displayed on a mantelpiece or windowsill as the countdown to Christmas begins



CANDLE WRAP

- 1 Trim textured card, 10cm x 22.5cm, and red cardstock, 11cm x 23cm. Layer and adhere to create a belly band.
- 2 Wrap around the candle and secure with adhesive. Using the Grand Calibur machine, cut and emboss the Snowflake Bliss #1, 2 and 3 (with #1 being the smallest die template) from white cardstock and #4 from gold cardstock.
- 3 Adhere glitter to the white snowflake die-cuts. Layer them with the gold and secure using a pearl brad. Attach self-adhesive gems to the belly band. Using foam squares, fix the snowflake embellishment to the belly band. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Die-cutting machine and dies, Spellbinders, spellbinderscreativearts.com

Now make a card for the festive season...

✦ First, create a tent-fold card base. To make the decoration, cut and emboss the Snowflakes View 1 and 2 from white cardstock.

✦ Adhere glitter to the white snowflakes, then fix the Snowflakes View die-cuts to the card. Finally, cut and emboss 'Happy Holidays' from red foil and adhere.



Make Perfect Presents



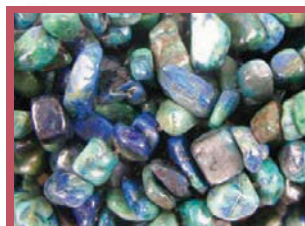
See
tutorial
online



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from £3.60



Acrylic Snowflakes
£2.50



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Make me QUICK



JINGLE BELLS

- 1 Create a top-fold card blank. Cut diamond paper and mount onto green. Trim ornament paper and secure onto green, then fix to the diamond section. Attach red ribbon across the panel and secure at the back before sticking to the blank front.
- 2 Stamp a 'Jingle Bells' sentiment in black ink onto white card, then each of the letters onto different papers. Cut out. Glue each one over the white. Draw a frame around the section and mount onto green. Stamp 'Jingle all the way' on white, mount onto green, then attach both pieces to the front using 3-D foam pads.



SNOW

- 1 Make a side-fold blank and cut the front panel in half. Trim star paper and mount onto red card, then glue over the left panel. Stamp 'Snow' onto white, then press and cut the letters onto various patterned papers before gluing them over the word.
- 2 Create two sentiments from white and mount onto red. Attach the topper and sentences to the front panel using foam pads. Tie a red bow and fix to the top-left corner of the 'Snow' panel, then add red gems to the bottom and top corners.

SANTA

- 1 Create a square card blank. Trim a square of red swirl paper and mount onto red. Cut red stripe paper, fix onto red and glue to the larger panel. Attach red ribbon across the bottom, then secure at the back. Glue the section onto the blank.
- 2 Stamp 'Santa' onto white and various patterned papers, then cut out and stick onto the panel. Stamp 'I've been so good...' onto white and stick to red. Secure to the panel using foam pads, then attach it to the front. Tie and secure a red bow over the ribbon. **CB**



NOEL

- 1 Create a square card blank. Mount light green paper onto green, then glue onto the card front. Cut stripe paper, fix onto green and glue to the blank. Stamp a 'Noel' sentiment onto white. Stamp the letters onto different patterned papers. Cut out and glue in place over the word.
- 2 Create a dotted line using a fine line pen at the top and bottom of the stamped panel. Mount onto green card and secure. Stamp 'Be merry and bright' on white, fix onto green and stick into place.

Craft tip

This technique is great if you don't like colouring or want to add texture to your designs



"WHY NOT TRY MOUNTING SOME LAYERS ONTO GOLD MIRRI CARD FOR AN ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMASSY LOOK?"

Kitty Frampton, Designer

Download

IF YOU'D RATHER NOT CUT UP YOUR MAGAZINE...

You can download and print this project from CRAFTS-BEAUTIFUL.COM

SOURCE IT...

Woodware Huge Word Stamps, Woodware stockists, woodware.co.uk

Echo Park Christmas Cheer papers, Craft Island, craft-island.co.uk

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ask the EXPERTS

CRAFTY SOLUTIONS AND CREATIVE KNOW-HOW FROM
OUR TOP TEAM OF CRAFTERS

Meet our Panel...



SARA DAVIES

Founder of Crafter's Companion and a working mum, Sara enjoys card making and is often seen on craft TV demonstrating the latest products. crafterscompanion.co.uk



JOANNA SHEEN

Is a TV personality and professional card maker with her own craft company. Joanna has a wealth of knowledge covering dried flowers to decoupage. joannasheen.com



KATIE SKILTON

Is a Creative Designer for paper brand, Craft Asylum. When she isn't juggling parenthood with her cardmaking, Katie loves to experiment with all types of crafts. craftasylum.com

My kids want to make Christmas cards for their friends this year, can you recommend a suitable paper collection?



KATIE SAYS... It's great that the kids want to make their own cards and what a fabulous way to help their creativity. Craft Asylum's Best Friends collection is just perfect for children to craft with. Not only will it provide great results in a short space of time, it also has sentiments that would work well for the children to give to their friends.

Here I have made a simple card by adding layers of patterned paper. The main focal point is the Best Friends panel with an extra sentiment in the centre. Finish with a patterned brad to give the card that extra special finish, that will delight anyone who receives it!



What is the best way to ensure that your stamped images line up when repeating a pattern, is there a knack?

KATIE SAYS... Personally I found this really tricky when I first started stamping, but it's really all about practice. Always try out a stamp on scrap paper to get a feel for it and see where you would like it to line up. With clear stamps like the ones used on this card, you will need an acrylic stamping block. Make sure the stamp is fixed on straight, then start in the middle of the card, repeating the pattern out towards both sides. The more you practise this technique the more you will be able to gauge when the design is straight. Most of all, take your time and enjoy the process of learning a new technique.

I've put the Ultimate Pro on my wish list for Christmas; any tips on how I can get the best out of it?

SARA SAYS... I'm so happy to hear that you want the Ultimate Pro - you're going to love it! To get the best out of the tool I would highly recommend one of the DVDs to go alongside it. Not only does it show you how to use it, there are lots of different project ideas too. There are also tutorials on YouTube, so you can go there for guidance. There are very concise instructions inside the tool as well, so you'll be able to get started with new techniques straight away! Once you get the hang of it, there's a variety of add-on boards that will enable you to create lots of different-sized cards, envelopes and boxes - so there's all sorts that you'll be able to make using the Ultimate Pro and accessories!



I love using CDs for my card making, but I do get confused about what the best type of paper is for printing the images onto. Can you advise please?

JOANNA SAYS... Well there are various different options here. If it's for a backing paper only, then I would suggest something smooth and of good weight, say 150gsm plus. I like to use our Elegance satin paper, but there are plenty more to choose from. For a topper or the main image/focal point of the card, I always use a photo paper which usually has a gloss finish. Make sure your printer is always kept clean (and I mean by pressing buttons to clean ink nozzles not dusting it!). Do try different papers and settings on your printer too, as the results are incredible - it's not just a small difference, but a

My grandchildren are crazy about The Snow Dog and I'd love to make them each a Christmas card. What products are available?

SARA SAYS... There's lots that you can craft with using The Snowman and The Snowdog ranges, including stamps, dies, papercrafting kits and CDs. In fact, the latest CDs are great for making festive party decorations as well as cards. If you live close to your grandchildren, why not encourage them to get crafting and make some fab decorations of their own, including a 'Santa stop here' sign? There are so many options and you'll have lots of fun using them.



What sort of ink-pads should I use when stamping and colouring in using alcohol-based marker pens?

JOANNA SAYS... I always choose an ink-pad from the Memento range as they always work brilliantly with alcohol-based pens like Copic and ProMarkers. The ink-pads are available in 36 luscious colours offering great scope when designing a lot of different cards. What makes the Memento range so handy, is that once the image is stamped it doesn't bleed and will always give you a nice crisp outline.

COMING NEXT MONTH... Tricks with Duck Tape, quilling and hexagon patchwork

AS CHRISTMAS FAST APPROACHES, TRY SIMPLE TECHNIQUES WITH CARD TO MAKE KEREN BAKER'S

Last-Minute PACKAGING



"CRAFT PAPER IS A HIGHER WEIGHT THAN WRAPPING PAPER, SO TAKE CARE WHEN FOLDING. I SCORED IT WHERE THE FOLD LINES WERE, REMOVED THE PAPER, THEN FOLDED ALONG THE LINES BEFORE PUTTING IT BACK ONTO THE PARCEL"

Keren Baker, Designer

Make it!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Stamp set, Woodland Wreath, Wplus9
- Ink-pads, Stampin'Up!: Wild Wasabi, Certainly Celery, Pacific Point, Poppy Parade
- Die, pillow box
- Paper, coloured
- Cardstock
- Punches: star, Xcut; circle, small
- Embellishments: embroidery thread, green; ribbon, light blue; buttons, various; twine; gems, adhesive
- Adhesives: foam pads, 3-D; glue

GREEN BOX

- 1 Carefully wrap an item in green paper. Stamp a dotted wreath in green and cut out. Punch small circles from blue, green and red paper, then attach onto the wreath.
- 2 Punch lots of stars in red, white and blue. Fix together in pairs, sandwiching green embroidery thread between them to create a garland. Wrap it around the box, attaching each end with glue. Stick the wreath onto the box using foam pads, then add a twine bow and red button.

LIGHT BLUE BOX

- 1 Wrap a gift in light blue paper. Pleat white paper and attach to the centre, then add a strip of red over the top.
- 2 Stamp a densely leafed wreath in blue and cut out. Stamp little berries in red around the design. Adhere to the box using foam pads, then attach a large button on top with a bow of twine threaded through.



Design detail...

Crafty pals will love these wrapped gifts as they can keep the embellishments for themselves afterwards!



RED PILLOW BOX

- 1 Die-cut a pillow box from red cardstock and glue together. Attach a strip of green paper onto the top. Pop a present inside, then tie ribbon all around.
- 2 Trim a circle from blue paper and cut into a spiral. Roll it up, then stick onto the centre of the spiral. Hold in place until fully adhered.
- 3 Stamp a leafy wreath in green onto white cardstock. Cut out and attach to the box using foam pads. Add little gems around it, then fix blue ribbon and the rolled flower onto the box to finish. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

WPlus9 stamps, find a stockist at wplus9.com

Papermania paper, Craft Superstore,
01162 744754, craftsuperstore.co.uk



COLETTE SMITH'S

Stylish Snowflake Cards

CREATE STUNNING DESIGNS YOU CAN REPRODUCE AGAIN AND AGAIN USING INKS AND STENCILS

If you like to get messy and inky in array of gorgeous colours, then distress inks are for you! This medium is so versatile that you can stamp, stencil, spritz and even create your own unique patterned papers. I've chosen a bright pink and a rich purple ink to use with a delicate snowflake stencil to make our modern Christmas card.

There is no right or wrong way to use distress inks, so experimenting and playing around with different colours is the key. Apply the inks sparingly using a simple blending tool and depending on how quickly they dry and how much you use, the blended inks will give some fantastic results. And, with oodles of sumptuous shades on the market the hardest part is going to be deciding which to use. Time to get messy!

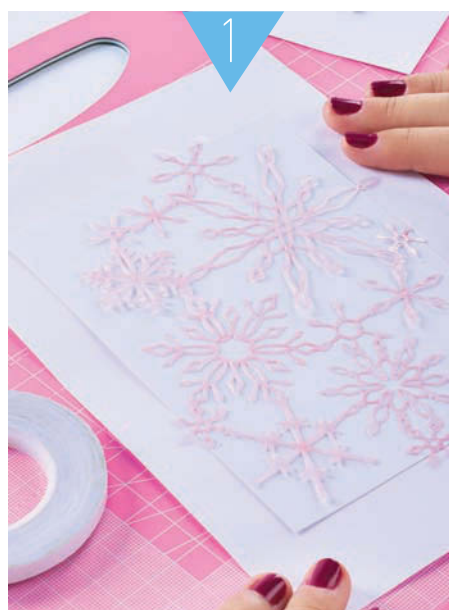
the basic technique colour blending

- ✱ Keep plenty of the blending foam pads in your stash. Replacement pads in packs of 20 are available from good craft retailers.
- ✱ If you are using a lot of colours, start with the lightest shade of ink.
- ✱ Crumple a piece of paper, flatten out, rub the ink-pad over the surface, then spray with water and leave to dry.
- ✱ Re-inkers are available in little bottles so that you can re-fresh ink-pads when they run a little dry.
- ✱ The bottles of re-inkers have little droppers inside. Drop coloured inks onto card and spritz with water to get some interesting effects.



“Instead of using a stencil, try peel-off stickers. Test on scrap card to make sure the peel-off doesn't lift the surface - I had a go and it worked a treat!”

“If you haven't got a blending tool to hand, try using



WHAT YOU NEED

- Card, high gloss, white
- Cardstock, bright pink
- Distress inks, Tim Holtz: Picked Raspberry, Seedless Preserves
- Stencil, Memory Box: Snowflake Flurry
- Die, Poppy Stamps: Magnificent Merry
- Ink-blending tools
- Gems, clear
- Ribbon
- Die-cutting machine
- Adhesives

1 Place gloss card, 10.5cm x 15cm, onto scrap paper. Lay the stencil over it so that it overlaps the card edge slightly and secure it in place with tape. Once you start to apply the ink, you may get a little bleeding under the stencil, but don't worry as this all adds to the uniqueness of the design.

2 Starting with the pink ink, lightly tap the blender onto the pad; avoid overloading the tool and apply the ink to half the gloss card using a light tapping motion. Try not to handle the gloss card too much as the oil from your fingers will effect the way the ink settles on to the surface.

3 Change to a different tool and apply the purple ink in the same way, covering the remainder of the card. Leave to dry, then add another thin layer of pink and purple ink. Start blending them together in the middle of the card.

4 Keep applying and blending layers of ink until the desired depth of colour and result is achieved. Using the inks can be a messy business, so keep plenty of baby wipes and kitchen roll to hand.

5 When dry, remove the stencil and fix the snowflake panel to a blank, 14.5cm square. Finish with a few gems, a length of ribbon and 'merry' die-cut from bright pink card. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Distress inks, blending tools, Hobby Art Stamps, **01737 789977, hobbyartstamps.com**

Gloss card, Memory Box stencil, Poppy Stamps die, The Glitter Pot, **01444 247644, theglitterpot.co.uk**

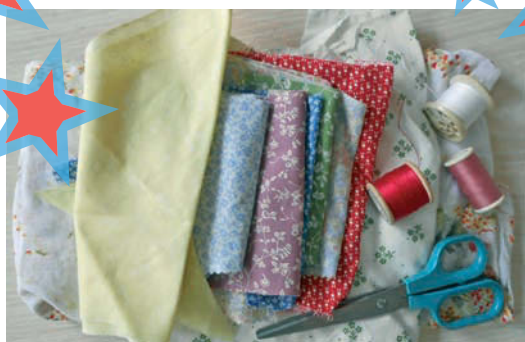


a tightly rolled up piece of kitchen roll instead”



your SPACE

"Join the crafty community and share your makes and stories with fellow CB readers!" *Jecelyn*



STAR LETTER

Retiring after nearly 40 years as a teacher this summer, I was wondering about what hobbies I might take up. I saw your magazine, and it made me think that I might enjoy craft. After all, I'd spent years doing craft activities with primary school children. What an interesting and informative magazine! It has given me lots of ideas of things I want to try (not to mention the free gift of Christmas decorations). As Christmas approaches, I know I am going to be very busy with all the exciting projects!

Jackie Patrick, via email

I'M SO GLAD THAT THE MAG HAS HELPED TO INSPIRE ALL YOUR WONDERFUL CREATIVITY, JACKIE! ENJOY

Star Prize

This month's star prize is sure to tantalise your taste buds with a selection of warming winter beverages from Whittards! The set includes a white hot chocolate, luxury hot chocolate, after dinner coffee and spice imperial tea. Each comes in a beautifully designed metal tin featuring delicate snowflakes; settle down to one of these whilst crafting on a chilly night. All that's left to do now is to pop the kettle on! whittard.co.uk

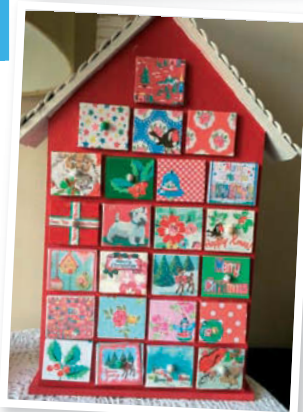


Twitterverse

[@craftsbeautiful Any time is a good time for mince pies] Especially with whipped cream! @lauraashleyuk

I'm making an art journal for my baby – if he allows me! @edis_uk

Currently finishing a border on a cross-stitch before attaching it to a cushion for my sister @tattooedcrafter



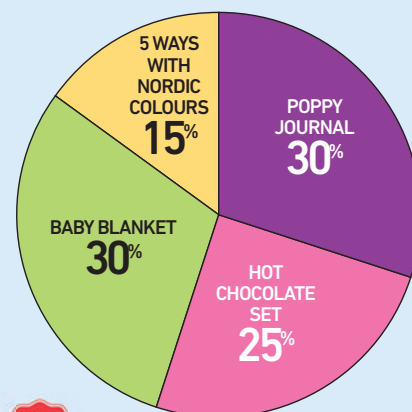
Crafty Countdown

Hello Crafts Beautiful. I've been working to finish my Cath Kidston advent house using fabrics and ribbon! What do you think?

Simone Campbell, via Twitter

WHAT A WONDERFUL KEEPSAKE!

Your FAVOURITE PROJECT FROM LAST MONTH WAS...



Vote for your favourite this issue on homecraftforums.com!

Show us your CB KIT CREATIONS

We love to see what our readers have made using their free gifts. Have you done something special with yours?

Why not send us a pic?

Meet a mate!

Swap hints, tricks and your stories with new friends

Sharon Quinn, 42

I love to make jewellery. I'd like to meet people with the same hobby as me.
22 Hawthorn Drive, Airdrie, North Lancashire, ML6 8AR



Irene, 59

I enjoy knitting, card making and more. I want to hear from other ladies in my area with similar interests.
132 Rushy Rig, Blackfell, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 1LN

Sandy Green, 50

I like all types of sewing, especially home furnishings and soft toys. It would be nice to hear from someone with the same interests.
18 Charlton Close, Penhill, Swindon, SN2 5EH

Cindy, 36

I enjoy scrapbooking, card making and journal decorating. I'd like to hear from anybody of a similar age who might be up for swapping ideas.
169 Franklands Village, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3RF, UK

Please be aware that entrants to the pen pals section submit personal details at their own discretion

Email your details to social.cb@aceville.co.uk or fill out the form on page 113

Join us for Thrifty Thursday every week at facebook.com/craftsbeautiful



Thrifty Thursday

What have you been upcycling as part of Thrifty Thursday?



This month, Elaine Kavanagh gets crafty with old books.

"I love upcycling papercrafts. At the moment I'm using old books that I buy from charity shops to make these romantic, vintage-inspired decorations. I've got to make quite a few as they're going to be table centrepieces for my sister's wedding next year. I cut the books into shape, tear sheets of decorated paper and stick them to the front, then add ribbon and a wooden blank to finish."

COMING next month

We have a fabulous selection of Graphic 45 papers and embellishments from the It's Raining Cats and Dogs range! g45papers.com

FORUM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Elizajane



This month's winner is **Elizajane**, who has been sharing lovely nostalgic stories, swapping ideas and gearing up for the Christmas rush. She's full of inspiration and enthusiasm. Well done, Elizajane!

Sugarplum Dreams

Hello! I created this caravan for two felt mice using a child's small suitcase. Inside there's a fabric table and cushion, crochet stools, bunk beds made from old gift boxes and stairs made from pencils. I hope you like it!

Nicole Mangels, via Twitter

THERE'S CUTE, AND THEN THERE'S THIS ADORABLE BEAUTY! LOVE IT



Fabric Reindeer

Hello CB! I'd like to show you a photo of these Tilda reindeer that I made this year using the templates way back in your December 2012 issue. Aren't they beautiful? Thanks for the amazing idea!

Marianne Borowski, Germany

THEY ARE INDEED BEAUTIFUL! THE COLOURS WORK SUPERBLY ON BOTH



Get in touch via...

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Available through local Crafter's Companion
stockists or online at www.crafterscompanion.co.uk



Making jewellery for friends and family this Christmas? These jade rounds in frosted pink would look divine. Priced £4 per 16" strand, **01353 749853**, spoilrottenbeads.co.uk



Add a touch of luxury to your home this winter with a Downton Abbey teacup candle – you can have it burning away in the background as you watch the wonderful period drama. Priced £15, marksandspencer.com

Craft Crush

DEPART FROM TRADITIONAL COLOURS
THIS CHRISTMAS AND OPT FOR
FROSTY HUES INSTEAD

This pretty paper pack in shades of lilac, ice blue and berry pink will become a staple this winter. Visit wildrosetudio.co.uk or call **01173 643104** for stockists.



Not only will these sequin tubes come in handy when you're crafting, but they'll look super pretty in your creative space too! Priced £5.75, **01908 227001**, onestopcraftshop.com



Provide your makes with a frosty finish, thanks to these pink and grey snowflake washi tapes. Priced £5.75 for two 10m rolls, **01342 823921**, pipii.co.uk



Arm yourself with crystal lace ribbon in a myriad of pastel shades. Priced £2.50 for three metres, **0844 800 9120**, fantasticribbons.com



We adore this sparkly tree decoration from Tesco. It's as if Bambi has joined the cast of Strictly Come Dancing! Achieve the look for yourself at home by covering woodland-themed blanks with glitter. Priced £1.50, tesco.com



Transport yourself to a skiing trip on the Alps with this delightful fabric. It would look great stitched into a hot water bottle cover. Visit spoonflower.com for more designs.

COMBINE BEAUTIFUL COLOURS AND WHIMSICAL
IMAGES TO CREATE A SELECTION OF

Reindeer GREETINGS



"WHEN INKING BACKGROUNDS, BUILD UP COLOUR SLOWLY
WITH CONSTANT LIGHT DABBING MOTIONS"

Tracey Daykin-Jones, Designer

WHAT YOU NEED

- Stamps, Crafty Individuals: Magic of Christmas, CI-281; Magical Reindeer, CI-358; Snowflake Rudolph, CI-332
- Patterned papers, Authentique, Joyous
- Card, cream
- Ink-pads: blue, yellow, orange, red, black, brown
- Embossing powder, clear
- Die-cuts, circle: large, extra large
- Embellishments: ribbon, red, green; gems, silver; button, red; thread, red
- Adhesive: glue, PVA; foam pads, 3-D; tape, masking, double-sided
- Sponges, cosmetic

MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

1 Mount green paper to a top-folding blank, 12cm square. Punch a large red letters circle and cut in half. Stick the semi-circles to the card. Stamp a decorated tree onto cream card using black ink and clear emboss, then trim to a large circle. Stamp the baubles from the image over the adhesive section of post-it notes, then leave to dry. Cut them out and place over the corresponding shapes on the main motif to create a mask.

2 Colour the circle using blue, yellow, orange and red ink-pads applied with cosmetic sponges, blending as you go. Matt onto a black patterned circle and adhere to the front using 3-D foam pads. Remove the masks from the image, then embellish snowflakes and dots with tiny silver gems.

SNOWFLAKE RUDOLPH

1 Score 12cm from each short edge of white card, 12cm x 24cm, and fold the sections towards the middle to create a gate fold blank. Cover the two front panels with green paper. Matt and layer patterned black and red together, then cut in half and stick to the front. Adhere red tartan paper to

the inside of the card and layer a cream panel, 8cm square, to the centre.

2 Stamp a black reindeer head onto cream, clear emboss and trim. Carefully colour the head using brown ink and a cosmetic sponge. Add thin strips of

masking tape around the edges. Stamp a reindeer onto a post-it note, making sure the antlers go over the adhesive strip, then leave to dry. Cut out and place over the original image. Add colour to the background using blue, yellow, orange and red, then remove the masking tape. Matt onto red. Embellish with silver gems and stick to the front-left panel using foam pads.

MAGICAL REINDEER

1 Trim white card, 16cm x 19cm. In a landscape position, score a vertical line 5cm in from the left edge, then score a second vertical line, 11cm in from the left edge, and fold to create an easel blank. Punch two holes to the right of ruler paper, 2cm x 10cm, then thread green organza ribbon through. Make two vertical holes over the previous and sew a red button on top using red thread. Stick the strip to the outer edge of the larger panel using foam pads.

2 Stamp and clear emboss a reindeer image onto book paper, then trim and stick to card. Layer onto green and add tiny silver gems to the front. Cut red sweets paper, 10cm square, stick to card and mount to the reindeer using foam pads. Adhere this section to the wrong side of the long card panel using double-sided tape so that the ruler panel can be seen when standing. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

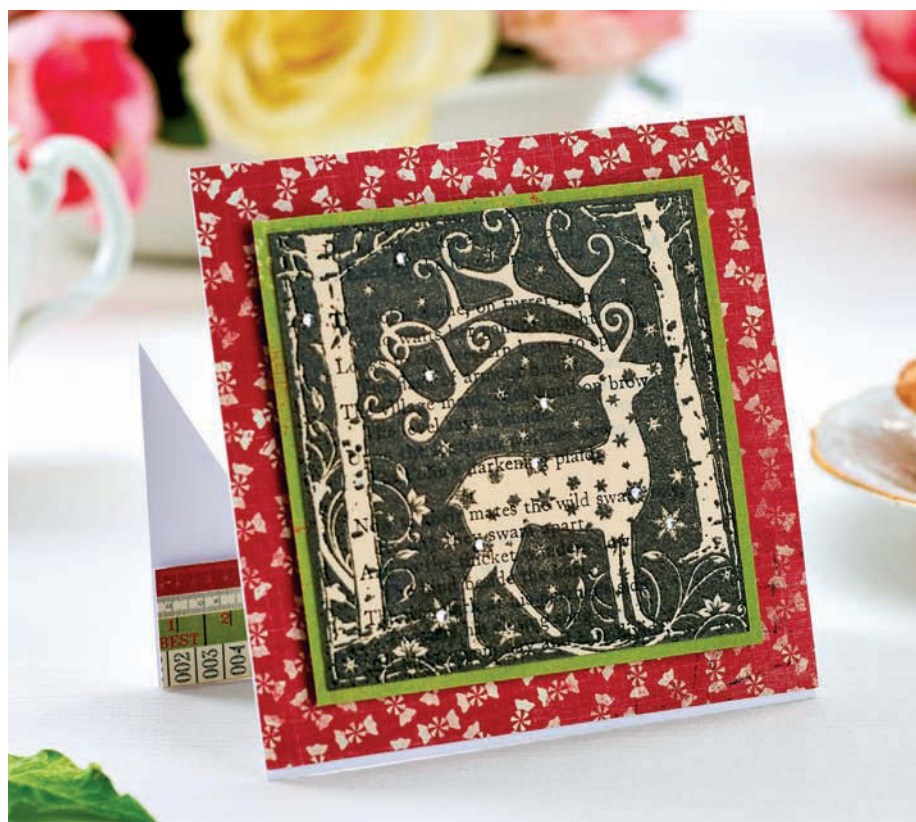
Stamps, Crafty Individuals,
01642 789955, craftyindividuals.co.uk

Authentique Joyous paper pad, Authentique Paper, **authentiquepaper.com**



Craft tip

Create a tag using green card, a strip of ruler paper, gems, red organza ribbon and a magical sentiment



Reasons to love...

ScanNCut

Brother's fantastic ScanNCut machine will make light work of your Christmas greetings and decorations this year. Imagine swags of perfect bunting, multiple 3-D decorations and crease-free paper snowflakes adorning your home for the festive season. Spend a little time getting to grips with the setting changes necessary for cutting through different materials with success before concentrating on the images you wish to cut. You can optimise the ScanNCut's large library of shapes, images and lettering to set you off in the right direction. Once you're feeling confident with that, why not make your own designs? Simply create a clean outline, scan it in and save to the machine's memory. You can then erase parts, enlarge and reduce, flip and rotate as desired to produce perfect shapes for layering.

CORINNE BRADD
DEMONSTRATES HOW YOU CAN
USE THE BROTHER SCANNCUT
IN YOUR CHRISTMAS CRAFTING



brother
at your side

Wall hanging

An appliqué decoration adds vintage charm to your home and will soon become a family heirloom. Take extra care and attention to detail when cutting your motif. The fabric needs to be well prepared – press the cotton with spray starch before ironing onto a lightweight interfacing for a perfectly flat sheet that will not fray when cut. Fix to the cutting mat with a special high tack sheet and cut as usual. Pin or lightly tack your shapes to your backing fabric and oversew using small stitches. Add dimension by padding the appliques with a little quilt wadding and decorate with gingham ribbon and pompom trim.



"YOUR IMAGE IS PICKED UP PERFECTLY
BY THE SCANNCUT'S 300dpi SCANNER
AND CONVERTED INTO A SINGLE
CUTTING FILE. FROM THAT YOU CAN
EDIT PIECES OUT, RESIZE, FLIP OR
ROTATE – IT'S SO CREATIVE!"

Corinne Bradd, Designer

Craft tip

Make a practise cut onto plain paper with each new file to check your design works, then keep the plain outlines as they make great stencils

Angel bunting

Delicate cut-outs can be strengthened by mounting on a matching solid shape to be used as bunting. Draw and scan your design as usual but save two copies, erasing the cut-outs from the second one to leave a simple outline. Cut intricate motifs from good quality white paper and cut outlines from thin coloured card. Glue the cut-outs to the coloured shapes, slightly offsetting them to leave a narrow shadow effect on one edge. Tape the shapes to coloured twine and hang.



Birdhouse decs

Folded paper shapes are a quick way to make 3-D ornaments. Choose a preprogrammed symmetrical shape on the ScanNCut, cut multiples, fold them in half and glue together back-to-back. Add a hanging loop of cord to the centre of the bauble. Alternatively design your own motif to co-ordinate with the rest of your Christmas theme, such as our heart birdhouse shape.

Snowflake card

Snowflake designs tend to be intricate and they will cut more successfully at a reasonable size on good quality paper. Make them too small and you risk losing detail, with cuts running into each other if they are too close together. Design a simple greeting by mounting a single motif onto a dark coloured blank or create a stunning card that includes several shapes. Cut five snowflakes from white paper in different sizes. Glue a panel of festive paper to an A5 green blank and scatter the snowflakes on top. Print a greeting onto background paper and age with an ink-pad. Tie gingham ribbon through the tag and place amongst the snowflakes.



Find out more...

If you want to read more about the Brother ScanNCut's features, check out scanncut.co.uk
Buy your Brother ScanNCut at Create and Craft,
09056 480480, createandcraft.tv

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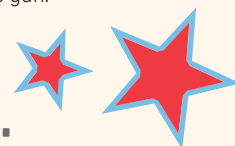
- 1 Take a sheet of A4 or A5 coloured card and curl into a tall cone. Secure with glue before cutting the bottom of the cone level so it stands straight.
- 2 Take several sheets of paper from your free downloadable papers. Cut into strips. Curl each strip over the blade of a pair of scissors.
- 3 Apply glue to the bottom of the cone, 3cm up from the

edge. Press individual curled strips onto the glue, placing each one close to the last and alternating the colours.

- 4 Apply a second row of glue around the cone above the first and repeat.

- 5 Cut out five star shapes from different papers. Fold each one in half and glue together. Fix the star to the top of the cone using your glue gun.

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DIANE BODEN quills

Christmas Angels

ADORN YOUR HOME WITH THESE BEAUTIFUL CHERUBS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Guardian angels are wonderful, traditional figures to have as ornaments this time of year; whether they're watching quietly from a mantelpiece or shining on top of a Christmas tree. These quilled ladies are sure to wow everyone and they're perfectly adaptable for any type of decoration, whether they're placed on a pine branch or popped onto your festive table or bake. This design incorporates a fun new technique called 'beehive', which not only looks impressive but is quite easy to do and fills a large area with quilling in next to no time.

Happy quilling, Diane x

WHAT YOU NEED

- Quilling strips: 2mm in beige, 3mm in pastel pink, gold-edged pearl coated gold, 5mm in ivory, crimson, pearl coated gold
- Quilling tool
- Pens, fine: black, red
- Glue, PVA

Gold Angel

1 Roll five 45cm pink strips together using your fingers to make a large coil and secure the end. Dome slightly and coat the underside with glue. Allow to dry. Make another and fix both pieces together for a head. For a body, roll two 45cm ivory strips around a pencil to form a short cone. Coat the inside with glue and leave to dry.

2 Create a skirt from five cones as follows: for each one, roll four 45cm ivory strips into cones, 6.5cm tall, then adhere together to form a ring. Leave to dry. Make five tight rolls from 11cm ivory strips. Stick them between the cones at the base, then add a 5mm gold strip around it. Make five teardrops and five coils from 11cm gold edged strips and glue to the skirt.

3 Make both sleeves from a 45cm ivory strip, roll into a cone, coat the inside with glue and bend into an arm shape, then flatten slightly. Stick gold strips to the cuffs. Make two coils from 11cm pink strips and pinch into ovals for hands, then glue inside the sleeves. Stick the body to the skirt and the head to the body. Allow to dry.



4 For each wing, take a 45cm gold-edged strip, measure 7.5cm from one end and make a fold, then glue inside to make a ring. Pinch into a teardrop. For the inside, use a 45cm strip and roll a couple of times at one end. Remove the tool and move along the strip by 1cm, then re-insert it and roll again. Repeat until the length is curled. Starting at the point, fill in the wing, gluing where it touches the sides. Once dry, stick them to the angel's back.

5 To make the hair, curl a few short 2mm beige strips as before, but tighter. Frame the face with looser curls, then fill in the sides and the back of head. Make a small gold ring for a halo, stick a strip to the back and secure to the head, then draw on features using black and red fine marker pens.

Small Angels

1 To make a red angel body, roll three 5mm crimson strips, 45cm, around a pencil to form a cone with a hole at the top. Add a gold strip to the hem. Make a head like the large angel but with three 45cm strips for each section. Roll two cones from 22.5cm strips for the sleeves, then create hands from 5.5cm ovals and glue them inside.

2 To make the wings, roll two large gold edged coils from 45cm strips and pinch into teardrops, then stick to the back. Glue the head to the body. Create coils from 2mm beige strips to cover the head. Fix the arms on. Stick a crimson triangle made from a 7.5cm strip to the back between the wings. Add a short strip across the back and over the shoulders to make a collar, then roll a small gold circle, pinch into a heart and secure over the front join.

3 For a candle, roll a 5cm ivory length into a peg and a 5.5cm gold teardrop for a flame. Wind a 11cm strip into a tight coil for the holder, then glue all of these components together before attaching to a hand. **CB**

"EXPERIMENT WITH THE BEEHIVE TECHNIQUE; IT'S A FAB WAY TO MAKE FLOWERS"

Diane Boden, Designer



Craft tip

A cotton bud hardened with PVA is a brilliant tool for applying glue



SOURCE IT...

All materials used for this project are available from JJ Quilling, 020 8295 1822, jjquilling.co.uk

TRY ELLEN KHARADE'S MILLEFIORI
MASTERPIECES AND DESIGN A PRETTY

Stationery set



"LAY A SHEET OF TRACING PAPER OVER THE MILLEFIORI AND ROLL, TURNING
THE WORK EACH TIME SO AS NOT TO DISTORT THE MOTIFS OUT OF SHAPE"

Ellen Kharade, Designer

Make it!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Polymer clay, Fimo Soft: peppermint, red, mint, white, apple green
- Retractable pens
- Notebook
- Mini cutter, star
- Scissors, wavy edged
- Cutting blades: straight; wavy
- Acrylic rolling pin
- Paper, patterned
- Adhesives

THE MILLEFIORI TECHNIQUE

1 Knead polymer clay until soft and pliable, then use an acrylic rolling pin to flatten it to a thickness of 1.5cm. Stack three cut-out stars onto the clay. Cut a log, 1cm in diameter, of peppermint clay into six equal pieces the same height as the star stack. Butt these in between the points of the stars. Cut a 5mm log of apple green clay into six as before and butt in between the peppermint logs. Compress the log with your hands, rolling to even the edges.

2 Take a flat 2mm rectangle of red clay, trim the ends and sides to fit, then wrap around the perimeter of the log. Compress the clay, elongate the cane and cut into three sections. Take one section and continue rolling the cane until it reaches the correct size. Save the other two canes to roll to the desired size. Make another star cane in the same way, changing the colour as you do so.



Design detail...

Use any leftover millefiori to decorate a disc of white clay and glue to the lid of the pot along with a length of ribbon around the rim to finish



Craft tip

Once baked, uneven areas can be smoothed using a fine sanding pad without disturbing the millefiori motifs

3 Roll out a log of mint clay, 15cm long and 1cm in diameter; slice three quarters of the way in and along its full length. Lay a strip of red clay into the slit, pinching in the mint edges to cover it.

4 Wrap a peppermint rectangle, 3cm x 15cm, around the mint cane, then cut into five equal logs. Roll an apple green log, butt the peppermint wrapped logs around it, spacing them out evenly to look like petals. Compress the clay, roll it slightly and wrap with a rectangle of apple green. Cut into three pieces and roll to the desired size.

5 Take a 2mm rectangle of white clay, 8.5cm x 13.5cm. Cut the millefiori slices, between 7mm and 15mm in diameter, and arrange across the rectangle. Place a sheet of tracing paper over the clay, roll until the clay slices are flush with the base. Trim to size with the wavy blade, then bake following the manufacturer's instructions.

COVERED PENS

1 Take a pen apart until you are left with the plastic barrel. Dot a small rectangle of white clay with small slices of millefiori. Cover with tracing paper and roll until flush with the base.

2 Trim the clay to fit. Gently lift the clay onto the barrel, roll the barrel on a smooth tile and trim the ends if necessary. Bake at 110°C and leave in the oven to cool. Once set, sand the barrel if necessary and replace the pen components. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Fimo Soft polymer clay, Craft Mill,
01614 845888, craftmill.co.uk



SARA NAUMANN'S

Tricks with Ink Blocks

CREATE A UNIQUE LOOK ON CARD AND PAPER THAT EVERYBODY CAN TRY

You might think of clear acrylic blocks only as a stamping mount, but did you know you can also use these blocks to create direct-to-paper effects? In fact, acrylic blocks can easily be used as a stamp, and I love using this technique in combination with liquid inks like Smooch. The applicator has a small pointed tip which you would normally use for detail work, and it works just as well for larger areas. It's an easy, low-fuss way to get beautiful abstract backgrounds quickly and easily. Any type or size of clear acrylic block will work; the one I have used here is 5cm x 15cm, which is large enough to ink-up the card. When you've finished, simply clean off the block with water or a baby wipe.

My cardstock of choice is glossy white because it doesn't absorb the ink like matt card, you'll retain much of the patterns you create. And because it's not as porous as matt, it's best to let the ink air-dry or heat it briefly with an embossing tool before handling.

Craft tip

When stamping the ink onto your glossy card, add as much or as little colour as you wish. Re-apply the ink to the block or add more water, then turn the block in another direction before re-stamping

“You can turn stickers into ‘unstickers’ by dusting the tacky side with a bit of talcum powder. This allows you to attach them with foam mounting tape”

the basic technique inky backgrounds

- * Using the Smooch inks, scribble two light colours onto an acrylic block, or colour directly onto glossy card.
- * Apply a pattern of dots of a third ink colour to the block or card.
- * Spritz the design lightly with water.
- * Stamp the block onto glossy card and repeat as desired. Alternatively, use the block to blend the colours if applied direct. Leave to dry.



WHAT YOU NEED

- Inks, Smooch: Kiwi, Gold Lamé, Pool
- Stamps: PaperArtsy (HPXM03)
- Clear acrylic block
- Embossing ink-pad
- Embossing powder, black
- Heat embossing tool
- Card: plain; glossy, white
- Swirl box
- Die-cut, label
- Stickers: poinsettia; border
- Foam tape
- Talcum powder

Coming Next month...

Step into spring with Sara's celebration cards. Discover how to create spray and stencil artwork you can use for any occasion and on a range of surfaces.



Merry Christmas

Try this fun way of creating a background with the ink block then adding some glossy highlights using hot embossing

- 1 Use the block to stamp Gold Lame, Kiwi and Pool inks on glossy card. Let dry, then stamp and heat-emboss the sentiment.
- 2 Mount on red, then teal card. Wrap with red ribbon, then add a red ribbon bow.
- 3 Make a folded card with kraft cardstock. Glue the stamped panel in the centre.
- 4 Dust three poinsettia stickers and two leaves with talcum powder, then use foam tape to attach them to the card front as shown. Add pearls to the flowers and to the top-right side of the card.

Sara says...

Make sure the inked background is completely dry before heat-embossing, otherwise the powder will stick to the wet areas. If this happens, use a dry paintbrush to gently brush the powder off.



Swirl Box

Decorate a plain gift box so that it co-ordinates with your card. Use sticker borders and embellishments to give it a neat finish that anyone can achieve

- 1 Use the block to stamp gold lame, kiwi and pool inks on all sides of the flat box. Fold the box into shape, then add border stickers along the edges.
- 2 Stamp and emboss the sentiment onto glossy white card. Then use the die-cutter to create a label around the wording.
- 3 Wrap the box with red ribbon and glue on the stamped tag. Add poinsettia stickers and self-adhesive pearls to the tag and box.
- 4 Dust a poinsettia sticker and leaves with talcum powder, then foam-tape over the ribbon. Add a self-adhesive pearl in the flower centre. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Clearsnap Smooch ink, One Stop Craft Shop, 01908 227001, onestopcraftshop.com

Stamps, PaperArtsy, paperartsy.co.uk

Stickers, Hot Off The Press, paperwishes.com



INCORPORATE THIS YEAR'S ICONIC CHRISTMAS MOTIF
INTO YOUR CRAFTING WITH OUR

Scandi SHAPES

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper: red, white, blue
- Cardstock: blue, turquoise
- Mountboard
- Paint, relief, white
- Pens, fine: black, white
- Embellishments: gems, self-adhesive, silver, blue; ricrac, blue, red
- Compass
- Stencil, circle



"IF YOU LIKE DOODLING IN THIS WAY, WHY NOT PHOTOCOPY ILLUSTRATIONS FROM VINTAGE BOOKS ONTO COLOURED PAPERS AND DRAW ONTO THEM WITH A FINE WHITE PEN?"

Cathie Shuttleworth, Designer

Make it!

HORSE CARD

- 1 Copy a horse from our pattern pages onto red paper, drawing all the lines with a black pen. Cut out, leaving an additional 1mm around the outside. With a white pen, randomly decorate the horse with shapes, strokes, dots and snowflakes.
- 2 Cut a saddle from blue paper and decorate, then attach to the horse. Draw a circle, 14cm, onto blue cardstock with a compass, then cut out and fold in half. Attach the horse to the semi-circle, write a message with a fine black pen and finish with a few self-adhesive gems and dots of white relief paint.

SCANDI WREATH

- 1 Use a circle stencil to draw and cut multiple red and blue circles. Use fine black and white pens to draw strokes and shapes onto the faces of each one before folding them in half.
- 2 Draw a circle, 24cm, onto mountboard, then mark out another circle, 18.5cm, in the centre. Cut the hoop out. Glue one half of a folded circle and attach onto the hoop. Repeat the process, overlapping each circle one after the other. Add blue circles at regular intervals.
- 3 Attach loops of ricrac to the top of the hoop for hanging. Run more ricrac vertically from the top to the bottom of the wreath, with a few pieces fanning out at the base.
- 4 Copy a horse onto red paper in black pen and cut out. With a fine white pen, decorate with shapes and dots. Attach centrally to the vertical ricrac with glue. Write 'NOEL' onto blue paper in black and white, then cut out. Finish with dots of white relief paint and self-adhesive gems.



Craft tip

Alter the shape of the circles on the wreath – you could try squares, diamonds or stars!

REINDEER CARD

- 1 Copy the horse from our pattern pages onto red paper, but omit the tail and mane. Cut out, then attach a new tail and antlers using our templates.
- 2 Decorate the reindeer with a strip of turquoise cardstock, white details, and a red gem for a nose. Make a two-tone side-opening card. Mount the deer onto the card with glue. Draw snowflakes randomly over the left-hand side of the card with a fine white pen to finish. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Fine white pen, Posca Pens, Hobbycraft, hobbycraft.co.uk



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Festive doves



"WHY NOT USE THIS DESIGN TO APPLIQUÉ
FELT BIRDS ONTO A CHRISTMAS
STOCKING OR TREE SKIRT?"

Helen Fitzjohn, Designer

WHAT YOU NEED

- Felt: purple, lime, rose, aqua, white, orange
- Card: purple, lime, rose, aqua, white
- Thread: metallic silver, Gütermann; embroidery, lime, rose, aqua, white
- Wadding
- Gems, clear, various sizes
- Pen, gel, silver
- Adhesives: glue, PVA; tape

HANGING DOVE

1 Cut out all the elements from contrasting felts using the templates from the pattern pages, including two body pieces, two large wings and two hearts. Trim a slightly smaller body and wing from wadding. Dab a little glue onto the back of the smaller wing and add it to the larger one, then stick on two small circles.

2 Sew across the wing randomly using silver thread, glue on the largest circle, then stitch designs to all three discs and adhere gems to the centres. Place wadding onto the blank wing, then add the embellished section on top. Blanket stitch around the wing.



3 Glue the hearts onto a tail, then decorate as before. Secure a white head with two sets of three small silver stitches along the bottom. Add the wadding to the back, lay the body piece on top of the decorated front, then sew up the body using blanket stitch. Fix an orange felt beak, then glue the white head on top. Add an eye using two small felt circles and a gem. Tie a length of silver thread to the back of the wing for hanging.

OVAL CARD

1 Cut white card, 12cm x 40cm, then score and fold 11cm in from each side to make a central 18cm rectangle. Turn over, then score and fold the end panels in half to 5.5cm. Turn the card back, draw on ovals in pencil using our templates, then cut them out to create apertures in the card.

2 Cut six ovals from coloured card. Turn the main card over. Place an oval into each aperture and tape silver thread vertically so they spin. Stick the other ovals over the first ones to hide the threads. Cut out rectangles with oval apertures from coloured card to fit each panel. Wind silver thread around each section and secure to the back using tape, then stick them to the main card. Make mini doves using the templates, decorate with gems and silver pen dots, then fix to the ovals. **CB**

Craft tip

Begin and end the blanket stitch in the middle of the dove as the wing will cover any untidy bits

“Create a smaller card”

✱ Use card template A to trim and score a small version of the large card from white. Cut out the central oval, then create and add the central dove shape using silver thread.

✱ Cut out pink and aqua side pieces and glue into place, then add gems. Print or stamp a greeting onto lime card and fix to the top-left and bottom-right to finish.

SOURCE IT...

Felt, Blooming Felt,
01245 471690, bloomingfelt.co.uk

Threads, Gütermann, visit **gutermann.com** for stockists

Gems, Josy Rose,
0845 450 1212, josyrose.com

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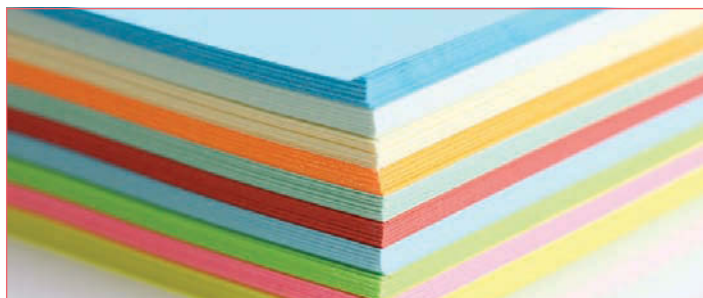
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Christmas with DUCK TAPE

The Duck® Colours adhesive tape range is something every crafter should have in their stash. New this Christmas are the festive shades of Gold, Silver and British Racing Green which, combined with the brand's Fire Engine Red and Snowflake White, make for a lovely festive collection. Here we show you how to create a variety of decorations to add a joyful touch to your home. Plus, we demonstrate just how easy it is to work with Duck Tape – an exceptionally versatile tape with endless possibilities.

CB'S SHARON BENNETT CRAFTS
FESTIVE DECORATIONS WITH
DUCK TAPE, THE WORLD'S
LEADING DUCT TAPE BRAND



Candle holder

- 1 Cut a circle, 11.5cm, from card and a card cylinder, 8.5cm wide, to a depth of 50cm – we've used a finished Duck Tape cardboard core. Cover both with gold tape. Add varying vertical strips of tape around the sides of the cylinder in green, purple and white.
- 2 Secure one gold tape strip to another, offsetting to leave a sticky edge. Trace eight leaf shapes with the end stalk edge on the sticky section. Repeat with darker green and trace out four holly leaves. Space them evenly around the flat base so the leaf tips just come over the base edge. Add four of the gold leaves directly over these.
- 3 Sit the cylinder centrally on the circle base and attach with small lengths of tape between the leaves. Next, add the remaining four gold leaves around the cylinder directly above the gold leaves on the base.
- 4 Trace four light green and four dark green mistletoe leaves. Layer over each other and position at the base of each gold leaf. Embellish with large pearls in the centres. Punch small stars to add around the holder, then add mini gems. Decorate the arrangement with glitter glue.

Wreath

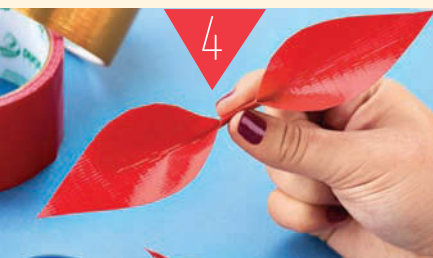
Cover a polystyrene wreath with silver tape, then cut leaves from doubled-up lengths of silver and add to it. Sandwich low-weight wire between light and dark green tape, then trace and trim holly shapes, ensuring the wire is down the middle of each one. Adhere to the wreath. Cut ten pieces of dowling, 5.5cm, and cover with patterned tape, then make two bundles of five and attach to either side. Scrunch up red tape into small balls and fix. Create two mini presents from patterned and gold tapes – add a gem to each, then stick one to the top and suspend the other from the bottom. Make a silver loop at the top for hanging.



Poinsettia dec

Trace petals onto a sheet of red tape. Add dark green tape to a length of light green and copy four leaves, taking care to have the colour divide along the middle line of each leaf. Cut a small circle from green tape and position the leaves onto it. Make a double-sided dark green panel and cut two smaller leaves – add these between two of the larger ones. Pinch the red petal shapes together and secure with tape, then attach these over the leaves using foam pads. Trim smaller petals and place on top, then add a flower centre. Embellish the design with pearls, gems and glitter glue.

How to... MAKE A POINSETTIA



Just so you know...

It's really easy to make sheets of Duck Tape for cutting various shapes, no matter what their size

- Lay a strip of tape horizontally, then add a second piece of the same length on top, moving it down to leave a 5mm gap of the first tape at the top
- Secure by pressing down and smoothing out, then turn the tape over and add another strip to the sticky edge. Repeat until you have enough material for your templates



Parcel decoration

Make a sheet from red tape and use it to wrap a parcel, folding carefully at the ends. Tidy up any loose ends with squares of red. Stick patterned tape around the centre of the

parcel, then add two strips of gold to create a cross-over. Make a bow from gold and adhere on top. Cut a curved tag from white tape and add a few small leaves and berries.



Find out more... Visit ducktapecolours.co.uk for more ideas and to upload your Duck Tape creations

**COMING
NEXT MONTH:
DUCK TAPE
GIVEAWAY!**

Our Papercraft Hero

CRAFT STAR, KATIE SKILTON GIVES A MODERN TWIST TO HER CHRISTMAS MAKES WITH A CONTEMPORARY COLOUR PALETTE



WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper, Crate Paper Sleigh Ride, 12" x 12" collection pack
- Card, white
- Nesting Dies: Circle, Scalloped Circle
- Ribbon
- Twine
- Distress ink, brown
- Notepad
- Matchboxes

Cool Yule

Use a double-circle aperture to make this card stand out

- 1 Create a white card blank, 11.5cm x 16cm, with the fold at the top. Cover with patterned paper and distress the edges.
- 2 Trim two 11cm x 15.5cm pieces from co-ordinating patterned paper. Die-cut a circle in the centre of the first piece. Using the larger die, make a scalloped circle in the centre of the second one.
- 3 Adhere all layers together using 3-D foam pads. Fix a circular sticker to the centre and layer the '25'. Trim a section of patterned paper, 3cm, wide then add the sticker border, twine and sentiment. Attach to the card. Tie ribbon around the edge of the circular frame and finish with a bow.

Bauble Style

Turn your spare die-cut shapes into this easy present tag

- 1 Die-cut a plain circle from your chosen paper and layer onto the scalloped one. Use 3-D foam pads to assemble the pieces.
- 2 Make a scalloped frame and fix with the foam pads. Attach 'Dec 25' sticker. Take the die-cut bauble and adhere to the centre. Add a bow for decoration.
- 3 Fix a loop of ribbon to the top of the tag for hanging, then cover the back with a scalloped circle.

ADHERE EACH LAYER WITH 3-D FOAM PADS TO GIVE DIMENSION TO YOUR CARD



"RED AND TURQUOISE ARE ON-TREND FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON – PERFECT FOR MAKING CARDS OR GIFTS FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS"

Katie Skilton, Designer



Craft tip

Use this method to transform budget stationery items into gifts for Christmas



Tiny Treats

FIX A LOOP TO THE BACK OF THE BOXES TO HANG THEM FROM THE TREE

Tuck away gifts inside these boxes to open on Christmas Day

- 1 Cover each outside edge of an empty matchbox with double-sided tape. Trim paper to size and wrap around the box making sure that the paper is fixed down firmly.
- 2 Carefully, cover the inside section of each matchbox with your chosen paper.
- 3 To decorate the outside of the box, add a strip of paper around it and attach a sentiment. Finish with a length of ribbon or twine.

Dear Santa

ADD A SENTIMENT AND MITTENS FROM THE STICKER PACK FIXED WITH FOAM PADS

Jot down all your Christmas wishes in this decorated notepad

- 1 Take a blank notebook without a cover, and fix paper to the back so that it overlaps the front by 5cm.
- 2 For ease, add score lines where the paper folds over the top of the notebook. Attach a sticker trim to the front lip and cover the join with ribbon. Finish with a bow.
- 3 Add a section of co-ordinating patterned paper to the front, the same size as the notebook. Fix under the front lip with double-sided tape. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Crate Paper, Busy Hands Crafts,
01264 771454, busyhandscrafts.co.uk
Die-cutting machine and dies, Sizzix, sizzix.co.uk

Sizzix
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BY YOU



USE THE LATEST DIES
AND PAPER PRODUCTS
TO RECREATE THE

Magic of
CHRISTMAS



"IT'S SO EASY TO
WHIP UP STYLISH
LOOKING CARDS
USING THIS
FUN FESTIVE
COLLECTION"

Katie Skilton, Designer

WHAT YOU NEED

Sizzix® products:

- Big Shot Machine (657900)
- Dies: Thinlits, Reindeer Names (659917); Christmas Trims #2 (659913); Framelites, Die Set 8PK Squares (657565)

Craft Asylum® products:

- Paper Pad, 12" x 12", Snow Kisses (480241)
- Embellishment Set, Snow Kisses (480227)

Others:

- Cardstock, white
- Glitter card, silver
- Adhesives

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS

1 Make a white card blank, 12cm x 19cm. Attach a 7cm wide strip of patterned paper from the 12" x 12" pad down the centre. Fix on another narrower strip in a contrasting pattern.

2 Use the Big Shot to die-cut the reindeer names from silver glitter card, then mount onto peach patterned paper. Adhere three pennants from the embellishment pack behind the panel and attach to the card.

3 Trim two pennants and position on the corner using a patterned brad. Add further small brads to the stars on the reindeer names.

SNOW COOL

1 Trim a white card blank, 13cm x 15cm. Die-cut a large

square in the centre, then die-cut a square in the centre of a piece of patterned paper. Attach to the back of the card aperture to create a frame.

2 Trim a third panel of patterned paper. Die-cut a snowman and adhere to this section. Now attach the decorated panel in the card aperture.

3 Decorate the snowman using silver glitter card and Snow Kisses patterned papers. Take the die-cut tree from the 12" x 12" paper pack and attach to the corner of the frame.

4 Using the Big Shot, die-cut a snowflake and adhere to the corner. Add a brad for decoration. Finally, attach a sentiment from the embellishment pack to the lower corner of the card. **CB**



WHAT KATIE SAYS...

- ✿ Only use a limited amount of colours on your cards. Match embellishments and sentiments to the papers you are using.
- ✿ Sometimes less is more. Have a main focal point on the card and embellish around this.
- ✿ When adding sparkle or bling to your cards, only use small amounts otherwise the effect gets lost.
- ✿ Special cards don't have to be large. If a product you are using works well on a smaller card then use it. Don't drown your hard work by mounting it onto a large card.

SOURCE IT...

For Big Shot and dies, visit sizzix.co.uk
Papers and embellishments, craftasylum.com

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Whatever the occasion, the Sizzix® Big Shot™ Starter Kit is the perfect crafting companion. From beautiful cards, gift tags and scrapbooks to home décor embellishments, gifts and more, the possibilities are endless with Sizzix®!

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sizzix.co.uk
craftasylum.com

CRAFT FOR CHRISTMAS ON A BUDGET

DISCOVER TEN TOP WAYS TO BE FRUGAL THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Words by Rosie Savage

Christmas is a favourite time of year for many of you, but it goes without saying that the costs of the occasion can quickly mount up. Save money where you can with our tips and advice – from savvy online shopping to bargain crafting products and upcycling projects, we've got plenty of ideas to help you out this season. We also hear from Poundland buyer Valery Slobodyuk on the brand's new crafting range, and our very own Corinne Bradd offers her thrifty know-how.

1 Get Organised

Make lists and enjoy that can't-beat-it feeling of ticking things off. If you go full steam ahead without some sort of plan, then odds are you'll spend too much money and forget what's what.

- ☒ Outline who you need to make and buy for, then list what their present will be
- ☒ Calculate how much their gift – or the supplies to make it – will cost
- ☒ See if there's any crossover between presents i.e. Auntie Diane's personalised lavender hearts will need ribbon as will your sister's kitchen organiser, so you could always use the same reel
- ☒ Tot everything up and see if you're happy with the number – if not, you can cut costs here and there



2 Savvy Making

If you're worried about budgeting when it comes to people's gifts, how about limiting yourself to the amount of techniques you undertake? Jewellery is a sure-fire winner with any women in your life, and we particularly cherish these vintage-inspired designs which you could make in batches. Simply arm yourself with a selection of findings and resin, then raid your craft stash for any imagery you think might work. And, better still, the brooch can be pinned onto a postcard, leaving the recipient with a card and present in one!

Find the instructions and download the woodland illustrations and postcard images for FREE from makeselljewellery.com

3 Upcycle Christmas Cards

Make a set of baubles from last year's cards to revamp your tree

WHAT YOU NEED

- Christmas cards
- Cord
- Scissors
- Protractor
- Glue, PVA

1 Cut 12 circles from old cards. Trim another circle from scrap card, use a protractor to mark it into five sections of 72° each, then cut from mark to mark to make a pentagon.

2 Trace around the shape onto the back of each card circle, then score and fold along the lines. Glue the folded edges together, making a ball, using PVA. Before gluing the last few sides, slip a knotted cord inside the ball to hang. **CB**



4 Grab A Bargain

If you're looking to boost your Christmas craft materials, look for hugely discounted items that'll make both you and your purse strings smile. Craft Clearance has a fantastic range of products to suit, from embellishment kits to ribbons, buttons and stamps. craftclearance.co.uk



"Craft Clearance is a great one-stop-shop for all your Christmas crafting needs. We have savings of up to 85% off from brands such as Spellbinders, JustRite and Heartfelt Creations to name but a few. Currently, we're running a 3 for 2 promotion on items in our Christmas section too, so it really is the best place to grab a bargain!"

Sarah Stanger, Marketing Manager

5 Thrifty Tips

Poundland buyer Valery Slobodyuk shares her advice on budget Christmas crafting

*** Decorate your home.** A simple and creative way to beautify your house is to create your own garlands. Upcycle old baubles, or buy new ones from Poundland for just £1 per item, and tie them together with ribbon or string to hang over windows or on banisters. This spreads out your decorations in a creative way and gives the illusion that you've bought lots, without having to spend any extra money! Our crafting range also provides many great options to upcycle your existing decorations.

*** Make cards.** There's a multitude of projects you can complete with the help of our new crafting range, including Christmas cards. Not only will your loved ones have the pleasure of receiving a handmade greeting but you'll be making a big saving too! Look out for 30 new Christmas lines which will be in stores exclusively for the festive season.

*** Buy in bulk.** Christmas is an expensive time of year and buying gifts for everyone can be both time-consuming and hard on your wallet. A great way to save money is to buy gifts in bulk, then personalise them later. For example, buy plain wooden jewellery boxes for young girls and use Craft Bows, Ribbons, Jute Shapes or anything else from our crafting range to create personalised designs for each one.

*** Gift wrap your makes.** The way in which you present gifts can mean extra costs, and people often spend unnecessary amounts on elaborate presentation bags and wrapping paper. Why not stamp a personalised message or the name of your loved one onto brown packing paper for a different look? Our Jute range is a great addition to this style – the Jute Bows and Twine could be tied around the present to create a unique handmade feel.



Grab these items for just £1 each!

Turn over for more ideas ►

6 Shop & Save

Did you know that you can shop for gifts and get a percentage of the cost back? Discover websites such as topcashback.co.uk – it's free to join and simple to use, plus they play host to a plethora of your favourite brands such as Boots, Argos and Marks & Spencer. Don't forget to check out crafty companies too, which include Deramores and Homecrafts Direct.



7 Hunt Down Some Freebies

Our website is full to the brim of free stuff for you to enjoy – in fact, we've just added over 400 new downloads! Templates, illustrations, extra projects and pretty papers... we've got it all. So take a look at crafts-beautiful.com to get involved today. You'll find plenty of Christmas crafts to get stuck in to, such as this wintry house template which you can use to make a lovely plaque.



Hangar and milk chocolate, £2, tesco.com



8 Be Alternative

You don't have to skimp on all the traditions, but why not mix things up with a few cheaper options? Christmas tree wall stickers are big news right now, and they save money, space and hassle. Plus, you can say goodbye to rogue pine needles! We adore this bargainous design, priced at just £6 from notonthehighstreet.com.

Statically placed on your wall, simply surround the sticker with presents for a quirky look.



Hoop game, £4.95, dotcomgiftshop.com



9 Take It From Corinne

Our top thrifty designer Corinne Bradd is known for her skip-diving ways, and she's got one major bit of advice for you.



"Don't throw any paper, card or fabric away. Ever. Unless you really don't like it, in which case give it to someone else. Keep a box of offcuts and root around in there when you're lacking inspiration. Some of the most appreciated gifts and cards I've made have been cobbled together from odds and ends"

Enjoy Corinne's latest column on p68.

10 On The Day

Although it's tempting to spoil little ones on Christmas Day, they'll rip open their presents at lightning speed and the excitement will be over faster than you can say 'Father Christmas'. Instead, spend less on presents and encourage fun and games throughout the day. Buy some inexpensive chocolate coins and hide them around the house with clues as to their whereabouts, or why not invest in popular board games? You can guarantee that in years to come, children will remember the fun they had rather than the number of gifts they received.

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A STORE CUPBOARD STAPLE IS THE SECRET
BEHIND JANE GILL'S MAGICAL

Seasonal CARDS



Craft tip

The clear embossing protects the image outline and will not bleach!



"PAINTING WITH BLEACH IS GREAT FUN, ESPECIALLY WATCHING IT SLOWLY DEVELOP AND TAKE AWAY THE COLOUR"

Jane Gill, Designer

Make it!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Stamps, Woodware: Under The Mistletoe (JGS347); Tall Christmas Tree (JGS361); Trinket Christmas Tree (JGS363)
- Ink-pads: Kaleidacolor, Fruit Cake; VersaFine, black, red, green pigment
- Mask-It film
- Brayer
- Embossing powder, clear
- Card: white, green, red
- Liquid Pearls: key lime, peacock, white opal, ivy green
- Glitter glue: green, diamond
- Gems, green
- Ribbon
- Marker pen, green
- Household bleach, thin
- Paintbrush, acrylic
- Heat gun

TREE CARD

- 1 Score and fold white card, 18cm x 25.5cm. Edge the front with green pigment ink. Cut green card, 12cm x 17cm, and set aside. Using black ink, stamp the tree onto white card, 11.5cm x 15.5cm. Sprinkle with clear powder and heat emboss. Stamp the tree image again onto white card and add the greeting. Heat emboss as before.
- 2 Slide the Kaleidacolor ink-pads together. Ink the brayer using the top three greens only, then roll over the embossed trees and greeting. Work the ink in different directions until the card is completely covered.
- 3 Using the brush, bleach the sections on the main image; the colour will start to fade as it bleaches the ink. Carefully, splatter the bleach over the background to create a snow effect. Leave to dry.



- 4 Cut out the second tree shape and edge with the green pigment ink-pad. Trim the greeting and layer onto green card. Position the main image onto the prepared green card. Wrap ribbon around, tie into a bow and mount onto the base card. Fix the tree shape over the main image using foam pads.

MISTLETOE GREETING

- 1 Score card, 18cm x 25.5cm, and fold to make a base. Edge the front with red pigment ink. Trim red card, 12cm x 17cm, and white, 11.5cm x 15.5cm. Set aside.
- 2 Stamp a mistletoe image on white card and heat emboss. Mask off the left side of the card with film. Ink the brayer as before using all the colours on the Kaleidacolor pad, then brayer the unmasked area of the stamped card.
- 3 Remove the Mask-It sheet, ink the brayer and lightly cover the remainder of the white card. Ink-up the text stamp with Kaleidacolor and apply all over the section as shown. Bleach out the mistletoe image as before. Stamp and emboss the greeting onto an oval, then apply a little colour with a brayer.
- 4 Layer the main image to red card, wrap ribbon around and mount onto the base. Apply colour to the mistletoe with a green marker. Fix the greeting to card, then decorate with white opal liquid pearls and diamond glitter glue. **CB**

How to add... BLEACH HIGHLIGHTS



OUR ADVICE...

For a light ink coverage, roll the brayer onto scrap paper, before applying it to the card surface

SOURCE IT...

All the products used for this project are available from Woodware Craft Collection stockists nationwide. For details, visit woodware.co.uk

APPLIQUÉ HEARTS AND CROSS-STITCH HOUSES
ONTO HELEN PHILIPPS' DECORATED

Tea towels



"IF YOU BUY A SET OF TEA TOWELS THEY OFTEN COME PACKED WITH TWILL RIBBON
WHICH YOU CAN THEN RE-USE, TYING YOUR OWN HANDMADE TAG TO IT"

Helen Philipps, Designer



Craft tip

Make sure you begin the stitching at the opposite edge to the loop, so the design appears at the bottom of the tea towel when hung up!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Tea towels, cotton x 2
- Fabric: cotton, red, polka dot; check; waste canvas, 14 count
- Fusible webbing
- Stranded cotton, DMC
- Card: thin, for template; cream
- Paper, check, red
- Stamps: heart, greeting
- Ink-pad, red
- Bakers twine, red and white
- Needle, sewing

GIFT TAG

- 1 Cut a tag from cream card, 3.5cm x 11cm. Trim red check paper slightly smaller and glue to the middle of the tag, leaving a narrow border all around. Punch a hole in the top-left corner.
- 2 Print a heart onto cream card in red ink and cut out the shape. Attach to the front of the tag. Stamp a greeting onto another piece of cream card in red and trim, then attach to the right of the heart. Tie bakers twine through the hole to finish. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Red cotton fabrics, The Homemakery, 01483 361132, thehomemakery.co.uk

Waste canvas and DMC threads, Willow Fabrics, 0800 056 7811, willowfabrics.com

Striped tea towels, Asda, asda.com

CROSS-STITCH TEA TOWEL

- 1 Fold a tea towel in half to find the centre. Spread it out, then tack a piece of 14 count waste canvas close to the bottom edge, aligning the centres. Follow our chart for the red houses using two strands of cotton and cross-stitch. Sew over one block of waste canvas.
- 2 When complete, dampen the waste canvas with a cloth and cold water, and withdraw the threads one by one. It may help to use tweezers to do this. When all the threads have been withdrawn, press the tea towel carefully.

APPLIQUÉ TEA TOWEL

- 1 Trim three 6cm squares from red and white cotton fabric and iron fusible webbing onto the back of each one. Trace our heart template onto thin card and cut out carefully. Draw around them onto the backed fabrics and cut out.
- 2 Fold a tea towel in half to find the centre. Measure up 7cm from the bottom and position the middle heart here, aligning the centre with the middle of the tea towel. Peel off the backing and iron the heart in place. Sew around the heart in red cotton using blanket stitch.
- 3 Cut out two more hearts in the same way and position them either side of the central heart, then peel off the backing and iron. Blanket stitch in place, then press the tea towel.



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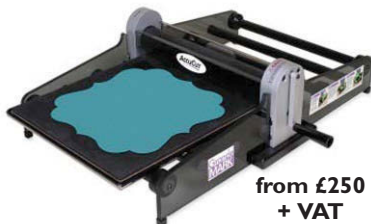
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4 CRAFTS

USE A TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUE TO DECK OUT YOUR CHRISTMAS HOME IN STYLE WITH ALICE VINTEN'S

Mosaic stars

WHAT YOU NEED

- Stars, MDF (with holes for hanging)
- Glass pebbles, blue, 2cm width
- Broken crockery, assorted
- Tiles, 2cm square: mirror, glitter, red; transparent, red
- Raffia, olive green
- Grout, black
- Sponge, grouting
- Spatula, small
- Sandpaper, fine
- Screwdriver, cross-head, small
- Wheeled tile nippers
- Glue

MOSAIC STARS

1 Place a small blob of glue in the centre of an MDF star and adhere a pebble. Take a mirror tile and cut into sixteenths. Apply a ring of glue around the pebble and place the mirror pieces around it, ensuring they're evenly spaced.

2 Cut two red glitter tiles into quarters diagonally. Stick the triangles on the points of the star. For the point that has a hole, cut off the tip of one of the triangles and stick above the hole. Set the rest aside. Take two more glitter tiles and cut them into square quarters, then trim each quarter in half to give you eighths. Place these around the edge of the star.

3 Snip crockery into small bits using nippers – they should all be under 1cm in size, in various random shapes. Fit them into the remaining space, gluing them down as you go. Cut smaller pieces to fill in any small gaps, then leave to dry. Go on to make various designs to make a complete set. **CB**



Craft tip

Back your stars with pretty papers or fabric, so if they spin on your Christmas tree they'll still look festive



"THESE STARS CAN BE HUNG ANYWHERE AT CHRISTMAS. ADORN YOUR TREE, GIVE THE MANTELPIECE SOME GLAMOUR, OR STRING THEM IN A ROW TO CREATE UNIQUE FESTIVE BUNTING"

Alice Vinten, Designer

SOURCE IT...

MDF stars, Perfectly Crafty, perfectlycrafty.co.uk

Mosaic supplies, Craft Mill, 01614 845888, craftmill.co.uk



Corinne's craft space

“We add twists of tinsel, a few baubles and glittered pine cones to our home”

Corinne Bradd starts to suss out her Christmas decorations

You would think that after all my years on earth (don't ask, it's not polite) I would be aware of just how quickly Christmas comes around. Needless to say, I never learn. I'm still trying to catch up on August. It doesn't seem possible that my daughter is nearly a third of the way through her 'new' school year and imagine my surprise (panic actually) when I realised my MOT had two days left on it. Is it any surprise that I've not given much thought to decorating for Christmas?

I keep mulling over ideas that look really impressive but don't take an awful lot of effort – a sort of 'stunning minimalist' look. In practical terms, I will have to move to a new house with a 20ft square living room and limed floorboards to achieve the kind of thing I'm after. I'd also have to keep hold of the old home so there was somewhere to store all my stuff.

In reality I think I'm going to have to settle for a good tidy up, a bit of furniture rearranging and maybe a new rug before adding the Christmas cheer. The living room is really the heart of my home. It's cosy, cluttered and a bit cramped, but it's where we spend most of our free time in the winter. There aren't many free surfaces to decorate. There's not a lot of free wall space either. To be honest, there have been Christmases when I've 'lost' decorations amongst the usual contents of the room and only rediscovered them around February. This doesn't make me a slovenly housekeeper, does it?

Usually my decorating starts with real and fake foliage, then we add twists of tinsel, a few subtle baubles and glittered pine cones, plus our collection of gem-encrusted birds. Then, when my back's turned, somebody somehow manages to find space for every other decoration in the box. The main problem being that there are always more decorations each year that I've brought home from work. I'd thought about making smaller stuff this year to compensate but there are only so many tiny birdhouses and miniature wreaths you can get away with in this job!

Corinne x



Oh Christmas tree!

Paper decorations are quick and cheap; something every busy crafter likes. With a myriad of colours and patterns available, you can easily create something to complement your existing baubles. This rosette tree is made from concertina folded strips of card, each one being 5mm narrower than the last. Join each concertina to itself to make a series of stacking discs. We've placed a 5mm high ring of card between each disc and tied ribbon around this to make the tree taller, while adding extra embellishment



GORGEOUS GARLAND

I made this garland with a set of papers that came with PaperCrafter magazine but you could make something similar from any selection of co-ordinating prints. If you're not lucky enough to have a set of alphabet templates or dies, you could make your own by printing out letters 300pt high, pasting to thin card and carefully cutting out with sharp scissors.

A hole punch and eyelet setter really come in handy when making these 1950s 'atom' shaped decorations. Layer strips of paper 21cm, 18cm, 15cm, 18cm and 21cm. Punch and join one end with an eyelet, gather up the other ends so the outer strips bend out, and fasten in the same way. The atoms can then be suspended by threading cord through the eyelet.



Q&A

"What are the best paper decorations to make with my kids this Christmas?"

SUSIE BUCKINGHAM, EDINBURGH

Paper chains are perfect for any age – just cut 2cm x 15cm strips from leftover patterned paper and use a glue dot to fasten each one into a loop. Toddlers will be quite happy covering simple festive shapes with oodles of glitter, while older children might like to try a bit of origami; waterbombs in Christmas prints look great as baubles. Snowflake cutting is always fun, even if you do end up with lots of tiny pieces of paper all over the floor. Mini snow-covered trees can be made by layering a green card cone with part of a doily, then mount on a cardboard tube and display in groups on the mantelpiece.

If you've got a question for me, send it in to corinne.bradd@aceville.co.uk



I know that sheet music and old books have been turned into decorations for a few years now, but there's still something really appealing about the printed page. Adding a strong colour to the monochrome papers brings out the text even more, so I added a layer of green cones to the wreath before finishing with a cluster of rolled paper roses in the centre.

Deck The Halls

Go all out with an abundance of festive flourishes



Noel wood and felt decoration, £1, poundland.co.uk



DIY elf kit, £2, tigerstores.co.uk



50s style paper chains, £2.95, luckandluck.co.uk

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SIP YOUR ESPRESSO IN STYLE AND USE
POSCA PENS TO PAINT THE PERFECT

Coffee break make

Get the artwork flowing over china and card with our elegant blue scallop patterns - they're ideal for a touch of seasonal decorating. The pens are water-soluble and will give a painterly look with total accuracy that anyone who draws freestyle will enjoy. The pens are great on all surfaces, so the designs can be taken over onto other items such as glass or napkins. With a selection of nib widths to choose from, any intricate detail can be applied easily, and larger areas are covered effectively without any smears or brush marks to worry about.

WHAT YOU NEED

- uni Posca Pens, 1MR: Blue, Metallic Blue, White, Silver
- China, white
- Masking tape
- Card
- Ribbon
- Varnish
- Adhesives

Paint with Posca

- * Keep a cotton bud at hand to remove any unwanted lines as you draw.
- * To avoid smudging the artwork, hold the item from underneath or inside as you decorate it with the pen.
- * When the pens are applied they have a wet consistency and dry very fast on absorbent surfaces, however the product will sit on top of the shiny ceramic surface until it dries.

PAINTING THE CHINA

- 1 Wash the china piece in warm soapy water and dry with a lint-free cloth. Cover off the striped areas of the design with pieces of masking tape, and cut to the required depth. Attach around the item, keeping the line level with the top.
- 2 Transfer the templates from the pattern pages and use them as guidelines for colouring in. Apply the curves and paint in the rest of the detail. If you can draw freehand, just add a pencil dot evenly



"KEEP THIS DESIGN AS SIMPLE AS YOU LIKE BY JUST USING THE BASIC SEMI-CIRCLE, THEN EMBELLISH A CURVE HERE AND THERE"

Sharon Bennett, Designer

spaced around the item to act as a guide. Use these basic steps for each item but vary the design. The scallop curves work well at the top of the band or beneath and if you have a few cups, then make each one slightly different to give a more eclectic feel.

- 3 Using the fine tipped 1MR pen, draw on the designs in your chosen colours. Never touch a line until completely dry as it will smudge. When all the decorating is completed, leave to dry, before adding a second colour here and there.
- 4 Once all design work is completely dry, apply a coat of varnish or sealer. Finish with drop gems or outliner to add sparkle to the designs. **CB**



"Make a matching gift card and tag"

- * Now you've got the knack, why not make a greeting card and matching tag to turn your painted ceramic ware into a stunning gift idea for Christmas? The pens work beautifully on card, with the colour flowing easily and smoothly. If at any time the product does not flow, simply replace the cap, shake once and draw onto spare paper, until you get the coverage you need.

SOURCE IT...

uni Posca Pens are available from all good stationery outlets. Purchase them online at hobbycraft.co.uk



MAKE & SELL: MERRY MICE

Stitch a beautiful mouse that everyone will adore, and discover how to make a brand for yourself

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fabric: wool, tartan, 13cm x 20cm; cotton, printed, scraps
- Felt, 6.5cm square
- Toy filling
- Beads, black, small
- Thread, embroidery
- Needle, knitting

1 Fold wool fabric in half and cut out a body shape, using our template on the pattern pages. Stitch down the long curved side to make a cone. Turn right side out and fold in 5mm along the raw edge, tacking in place. Firmly stuff the cone.

2 Cut a 6cm diameter circle of co-ordinating felt and oversew around the folded edge of the cone. Add more filling if necessary, before closing up the gap and removing the tacking stitches.

3 Fold printed cotton, 3cm x 15cm, in half lengthways. Sew down the long edge and across the bottom, then turn right side out to make a length of piping. Stuff with a little filling using a knitting needle to push the fibre down the tube. Fold in the raw edge and stitch to the base of the cone. Curve the tail around the body and secure with a few small stitches.

4 Trim four ears from cotton and sew right sides together in pairs around the curved edge. Turn out, fold in the bottom edge and sew running stitch around the gap. Gather up the stitches, secure, flatten the ears, and sew to the sides of the cone point.

5 Stitch two small black beads either side of the point and add an embroidered nose and whiskers. Bend the point of the cone down and secure with a few small stitches to keep the head bent. **CB**



MAKE FOR £1.50 / SELL for £10

MONEY SPINNER

If numerous customers show interest in purchasing more than one, you could offer a promotion such as 'buy one get one half price' or '3 for 2' – the more they buy, the more they save!



"USE SHORT STITCH AND A LARGE SEAM ALLOWANCE
TO ENSURE YOUR MOUSE IS EXTRA SECURE"

Corinne Bradd, Designer

BRAND NEW

The Sewing Directory founder Fiona Pullen knows what it takes to set up a company from scratch. Discover her top tips on how to brand your business...

✿ When you're thinking about **your branding** you need to decide what message you want to portray. Do you want to be quirky, fun, serious, innovative, cool, trendy or traditional? It will influence the colours and fonts you choose. Also consider who you are targeting with your branding, and what they like visually themselves.

✿ When **choosing a name** for your business, ideally you want it to be memorable, unique and, if possible, related to what you do. I would advise checking the web domains and social media names are free too before making your final decision. If they are different from your business name, it makes it harder for your customers to find you.

✿ When thinking about your brand **colours**, remember that different hues symbolise different things, and can evoke various emotions in people. Read more about the psychology of colour at colour-affects.co.uk. I also help you determine complementary shades with the use of a colour wheel in my new book.

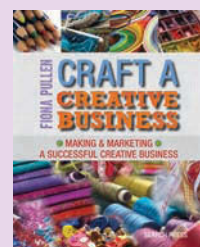
✿ When **picking your font**, you want to make sure it's easy to read in different formats and sizes, both online and in print. Visit fontpark.net to find over 70,000 free fonts that you can use.

✿ The most important thing about branding is that it needs to be **uniform across all platforms**: your site, social media, print adverts etc. The best way to do this is to make a note of the exact colours and fonts you are using so you can apply the same throughout.

✿ Unless you are skilled when it comes to graphics, pay someone to **design your logo** and help with your branding – this is one area where corners should not be cut.

READER OFFER

Discover more advice in *Craft a Creative Business* by Fiona Pullen (Search Press, £12.99). Save £1 and get free delivery with the code CCB01 at searchpress.com, or call **01892 510850** and quote 'Crafts Beautiful'.





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a day in the life of a CRAFT ENTREPRENEUR ...

“My love of the flora of the waterways runs very deep and is a constant source of inspiration for me”



Julie Dodsworth is an artist and designer who lives with

her family in York and also on her narrowboat in the south. After falling in love with the flora of the countryside whilst travelling around the waterways, she set about designing her own collection of gifts and homewares, which are now sold by some famous high street brands. We caught up with Julie to find out more about her inspirations, goals and family life.

What first inspired you to create your brand?

In 2007 my husband and I bought a narrowboat called Calamity Jane. The following year, I gave myself the task of decorating our boat, where I taught myself the art of canal painting. I adopted an 18th century style using primitive methods and painting outdoors and, soon enough, the vintage and folky look became my style. In 2010, my daughter Bethany suggested that the patterns would look nice on homeware and the seed was sown, to make a living from my artisan life was a dream. We visited a local garden centre and discovered that some familiar high street brands were made by specialist manufacturers. I did my research, which led me to McCaw Allan and their beautiful Irish linen textiles. I was signed by them and the Julie Dodsworth brand was born!

Did you have any formal training?

I have never been to an art class nor studied it in any way. I paint purely from the heart, for my own taste. I adapt my methods and let the shape of the object dictate the flow of the design. It's a very natural process. I've also had the opportunity to work alongside the glass blowers at Dartington Crystal and other experienced craftsmen and women through my collaborations; it has been a



“I gave myself the task of decorating our boat, where I taught myself the art of canal painting”

massive privilege to learn from the best – I am in awe of British artisan products.

What's your routine and first work-related task of the day?

If I'm travelling, I prepare the day before and start nice and early in the morning. When I'm at my studio, I begin with a big cup of tea and see about prioritising my to-do list. I don't look at emails until my first tea break mid-morning, so I purposefully keep on top of my deadlines and don't get distracted. I can then start painting and developing new ideas.

What do you enjoy most about being your own boss?

Being self-employed is a way of life, but I wouldn't say that I'm completely my own boss. I answer to my VIP licensees and the need of the retailers who look to me for assistance with display and promotion. They inspire and drive me to further the brand, and I pride myself on my work ethic

and ability to get the job done. But it's also a family affair. My husband Simon manages the admin side of things, Bethany has two shops and takes care of the online side, and my son Joe manages and produces all of our marketing and photography. They all have businesses in their own names, too.

How does your work change from day to day?

I can be painting new designs or working on colour swatches from Calamity Jane; my love of the flora of the waterways runs very deep and is a constant source of inspiration for me. It's also wonderful when I get the chance to see other works at international shows or when I visit licensees in Europe.

How did your idea for making silk flowers come about?

The faux florals are a combination of the lovely English heritage colour palette and the unique cottage garden flowers I see whilst

travelling on the water.

The combinations of shapes and textures create a perfectly balanced bouquet that's there to brighten up any home all year round. The flowers are available through branches of Country Baskets.

How do you prepare for Christmas?

Christmas is the busiest time for me and I start the process many months before. Trialling products has been a fantastic experience and I've had lots of fun! I also love to make a few handmade bits for my family and friends. I enjoy putting together fresh flower decorations and get stuck into a bit of baking, too.

What are your plans for 2015?

First I have the spring launch of my new range for Barbour, which is a lovely collection of ladies and children's clothing, then shortly following this release will be a range of gift and homeware items including a bath and bedding collection and a cosmetics line. As you can imagine, it's a pretty busy time but I'm living my dream! **CB**

Business Bite...

First things first, calculate how much you need to earn from your craft to make a living. Will you be able to manage solely from your craft earnings? Also, be aware that your own time is your most valuable commodity, and set yourself goals. Protect your art by registering with ACID (Anti-Copying In Design) and seek some basic legal advice when your designs are taken. Most of all, enjoy your art!

juliedodsworth.com

WANT AN EASY, LAST-MINUTE CHRISTMAS TREAT?
DECORATE CUPCAKES WITH

Festive TOPPERS



Craft tip

Sprinkle on desiccated coconut before the icing dries for an extra snowy look

Photography by Amanda Heywood

Creating detailed cakes is wonderful at this time of year, but when you're busy thinking about 101 extra bits for your Christmas table, you might not get the chance to do anything too fancy! If you're looking for

an easy way to wow your guests with minimal effort, these cupcakes are a sure thing. Not only do they look great, but they're simple enough for kids to make, too. Happy sugarcrafting!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Cupcakes, 12
- Icing sugar, 115g
- Fondant icing, ready-to-roll: red, green, 100g of each
- Egg whites, 2
- Glycerine, 2.5ml
- Lemon juice, 2.5ml
- Water, 5.5ml
- Embellishments: edible pearls; stars, silver; edible glitter
- Cutters: Christmas tree, star, daisy
- Electric whisk

Christmas cupcakes

1 Sift icing sugar and set aside. Beat two egg whites with an electric whisk until frothy and gradually add the sugar, whipping until the mixture is thick and glossy. Pour in glycerine and lemon juice and continue stirring until the batch is thick and forms pointy peaks when you lift the whisk.

2 Stir water into the icing sugar and test by drawing a knife through and counting how long the mark takes to fill in, which should be about 15 seconds. Add a little more water if it's too thick or more icing sugar if it's a bit runny. Once ready, cover 12 pre-made cupcakes. Leave to dry.

3 Roll out 100g of red ready-to-roll icing and 100g of green on an icing flour dusted surface. Cut four green Christmas trees using a cookie cutter, arrange onto four cakes using a little icing sugar as glue, then decorate with edible silver pearls and a star. Next, make four red snowflakes, place onto four cakes and decorate with a star.

4 For the wreaths, cut 20 red and 20 green discs, 2cm. Arrange nine green discs and one red in a circle on top of two cupcakes, then nine green and one red for the last two. Dust each one lightly with edible glitter and position onto a festive plate or stand to finish. **CB**



"Change the icing colours to match your festive theme"

Jecelyn Latimer, Editorial Assistant

OUR ADVICE...

Roll tiny balls of sugarpaste into shimmer powder and use instead of edible silver balls for children to eat

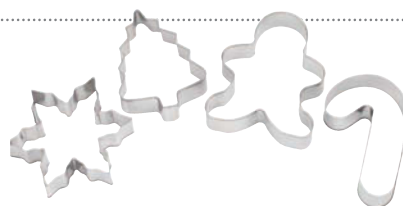
READER OFFER

This recipe has been adapted from Cupcakes for Kids by Rosie Anness and Cortina Butler (Lorenz Books, £11.59). To find stockists visit annesspublishing.com



IN THE LARDER...

Renshaw ready-to-roll icing, £1.70 for 250g, **01517 068200**, renshawbaking.com



Cookie cutters, Poundland, visit poundland.co.uk to find a store near you

Christmas cake stand, £8.99, **0845 680 2975**, gingeray.co.uk



HAVE FUN PAPER CUTTING AND LET YOUR HOME
GLOW THIS CHRISTMAS WITH JILL ALBLAS'

Candle BAGS

Our advice

The candle bags we've used are flame-proof. Never leave candles unattended and keep them away from children, pets and soft furnishings.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Card: red, cream
- Paper: plain, red; trace-down, graphite
- Candle bags
- Embellishments: bobble trim, cream; ribbon, gingham, red, 5mm wide
- Adhesives: glue, craft;
- tape, double-sided; foam pads, 3-D
- Die-cutting machine with alphabet cartridge
- GYRO-CUT®
- Punch, hole
- Pen, ballpoint
- Tea lights

CANDLE BAGS

1 Refer to our template on the pattern pages and die-cut 'XMAS' from red paper. Place our pattern on top of the letters. Insert graphite paper between the paper and pattern, then use a ballpoint pen to trace and transfer the design.

2 Use a Gyro-Cut or sharp knife to trim the border and design. Create the dots with a hole punch. Fix the cut-out paper onto the front of a candle bag with spots of glue, then tape bobble trim along the base. Place a tea light in the bottom of the bag. Make an accompanying 'NOEL' candle bag with our motif..

JOY CARD

1 Refer to our pattern, then die-cut 'JOY' from cream card. Place our template on top of the letters, insert graphite paper between the card and pattern, and use a ballpoint pen to trace and transfer the design.

2 Trim around the border, trees and hearts, then use a hole punch to create dots. With the fold along the long edge, trim a blank, 7.5cm x 14cm, and cover the front with red paper. Use spots of glue to fix the cream card centrally to the blank.

3 Tape bobble trim along the base of the cream card, then fix gingham ribbon above it. Glue a bow in the centre. Cut hearts and trees from red card and fix over the cut-out shapes with foam pads.



"FOR A QUICK BUT EFFECTIVE MAKE, OMIT THE RED PAPER, PLACE A SMALL CUTTING MAT IN THE CANDLE BAG AND JUST CUT SOME SIMPLE HEART AND BIRD SHAPES FROM THE BAG ITSELF"

Jill Alblas, Designer

PEACE GREETING

Follow our instructions to make the previous card, this time creating a blank measuring 7.5cm x 17cm and using our 'PEACE' template. **CB**

"Cut paper and card with ease"

A GYRO-CUT® is ideal for cutting thin card and paper quickly and accurately, making it the perfect tool for this project. It's a precision cutting instrument with a revolving blade, which is lightweight and comfortable to hold – plus, it works for both right and left handed crafters!



SOURCE IT...

GYRO-CUT®, Crafty Products, craftyproducts.co.uk

Candle bags, Efco, **01737 245450**, efco.sinotexuk.com

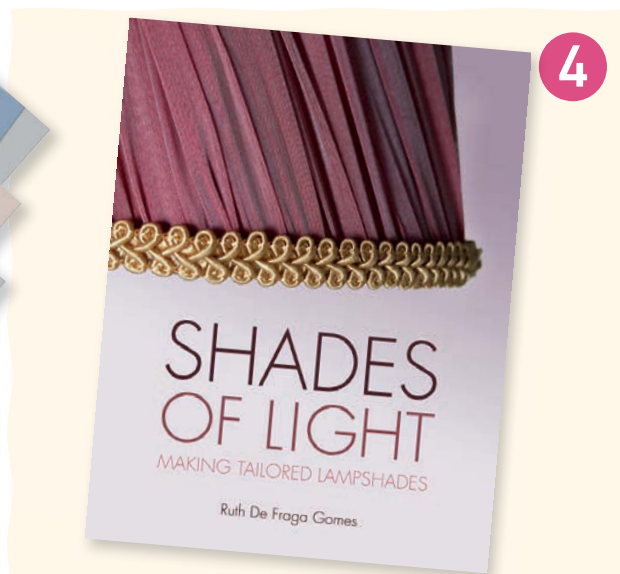
Bobble trim and gingham ribbon, Creativ Company, **01793 616 068**, cc-craft.co.uk





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POSCA pens can be used on almost any surface, making it perfect for all types of crafting. With over 40 colours including metallics, you can create a painted design on any scale. We have a bundle worth over £150 available to win. Find out more at posca.com

Tick Posca

2 Two Cricut sets worth £100 each

A die-cutting and embossing machine, the Cuttlebug is a great tool for any crafter. It can

cut and impress designs and shapes onto a number of different materials including paper, felt, foils, leather and cardstock. We have two of these machines up for grabs and each comes with its own die-cutting folder. uk.cricut.com

Tick Cricut

3 Four Hunkydory sets worth £50 each

This Antique Chic collection from Hunkydory combines elegant motifs, vintage transport and delicate fabrics to create timeless cards and papercrafts. We have four of these bundles available to win! hunkydorycrafts.co.uk

Tick Hunkydory

4 Five Shades of Light books worth £16.99 each

Want to create your own lampshades? This invaluable practical reference guide, which includes both written instructions and illustrations, explores the history of lampshade-making, its trends and inspirations. We have five of these up for grabs! Visit halebooks.com

Tick Shades of Light

5 Bo Bunny set worth £150

If you're a fan of beautiful, whimsy papers, then you're in luck! Bo Bunny's Madeleine collection is a dreamlike swirl of pinks, creams and



TURN TO PAGE
113 FOR THE
ENTRY FORM



greens featuring romantic motifs, bountiful florals and delicate bird themes. We have one bumper set to give away which includes papers, matching embellishments and sentiments. **bobunny.com**

Tick Bo Bunny

6 Four Renshaw bundles worth £50 each

We all love a bit of baking every now and then, and especially at Christmas! Kit yourself out with this fantastic range of icing treats from Renshaw. We've got four sets to give away, each of which includes

ready-to-roll icings, colour melts, flower and modelling paste, and white marzipan.

renshawbaking.com

Tick Renshaw

7 Five Spellbinders sets worth £250 each

Five lucky winners will have the chance to win the new GC-200 Teal Grand Calibur and two die templates, Labels Forty Decorative Accents and Sparkle, worth £250 each! For your chance to win, visit **bit.ly/HolidayGCgiveaway** and enter between 14th November and 12th December.

spellbinderspaperarts.com

8 15% off at Love Knitting

Love Knitting is certainly spoiling its buyers this month with this 15% discount! Treat yourself to a fantastic range of knitting joys, from silk, cashmere and merino yarns, delicate lace to super chunky and much more. To take advantage of this offer, enter **LOVECB1** at the checkout. Valid until the 31st December 2014. To see what's on offer, visit **loveknitting.com**

COMBINE REDS AND GREENS TO CREATE FUN
ILLUSTRATED CARDS FEATURING

Christmas PUDS



"PRINT OUT SEVERAL PUDDING IMAGES AND LET KIDS COLOUR
AND ASSEMBLE THEIR OWN CHRISTMAS CARDS"

Colette Smith, Designer

Make it!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Cardstock, digital, ultra smooth, brilliant white
- Card: red, green, white
- Paper, patterned: red, green, white
- ProMarkers: black, bright green, bright red, brown, grey, light grey, orange, pale yellow
- Gems: clear, green, red
- Bakers twine: red, green
- Buttons: red, green
- Glue, PVA

SEASON'S EATINGS

1 Copy from the pattern pages or download and print a pudding and bowl image onto digital cardstock, then carefully colour with ProMarkers, using grey and light grey to shadow around the bowl and pudding. Trim to 12cm square, matt onto bright red card, 13cm square, then onto a larger green section.

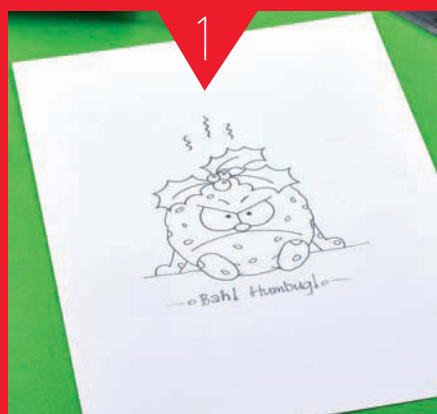
2 Attach the pudding to a white square blank, 14.5cm, using PVA. Place a red button onto a green one, then thread a length of both green and red twine through. Tie into a bow. Glue to the top-right corner, then add a few gems to finish.



Craft tip

Print an extra image, cut out the pudding from one and layer to the main motif for a 3-D effect

How to assemble... YOUR XMAS PUD MOTIF



BAH! HUMBUG!

1 Copy or download and print a grumpy pudding image onto digital cardstock. Colour in the image using ProMarkers, making sure to shade underneath and around the pudding with grey and light grey pens. Trim the image, 9cm x 11.5cm. Mount onto green card, aligning the top of the section with the green.

2 Matt patterned paper, 11.5cm x 15cm, to a top-folding card blank, 13cm x 15cm. Stick the pudding onto it in line with the fold of the blank. Wrap and tie lengths of green and red twine around the top. To finish, dot a few gems onto the front. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Digital cardstock, Craftwork Cards,
01132 877794, craftworkcards.co.uk

Bakers twine, Sew Crafty, 01628 620703,
sewcraftysewingcentre.co.uk

ProMarkers, Letraset,
01562 744522, letraset.com



WE LOVE: NOSTALGIA

Give your Christmas crafts a timeless touch with our selection of buys and ideas

WORDS BY JECELYN LATIMER

Sprigs of holly, snowy scenes, classic treats and visits from a rosy-cheeked Santa with a sackful of presents: it's Christmas! This time of year provides the perfect excuse to get your creative hands busy decorating, and what better way to celebrate than with a wonderful nostalgic touch? Tug on your heartstrings and team bold reds, golds and greens with traditional prints, vintage illustrations and postcard and letter motifs for a wonderful handmade Christmas.

1 Paper tidings

There's so much to create with card; who doesn't love a handmade greeting, crafting paperchains with the kids or cutting out snowflakes? These beautiful nostalgic prints from Graphic 45 are just right for the job. To find stockists, visit g45papers.com



3 The Nutcracker

Pssst... it's fine to cheat once in a while! This gorgeous crochet Nutcracker doll is handmade and also comes with a mini storybook to encourage play and development for little ones. It would surely make a wonderful gift. £24.99, cloth-ears.co.uk

2 Fun shapes

Turtle doves, reindeer, baubles and stars: there are plenty of wooden shapes available for all your Christmas crafting needs! Use them to make tree ornaments, card centrepieces and painted garlands. From £4.29 for a pack of 10, artcuts.co.uk



coxandcox.co.uk

HANDMADE TIPS

Catherine Woram is the author of *Christmas Crafts, and Beautiful Wreaths and Garlands* (CICO Books). She shares her top tips on how to get the look



★ I use old buttons and ribbons to create traditional decorations made from felt. Try charity shops to find clothing with pretty buttons, you'll save a fortune!

★ Wrap and secure willow branches or artificial ivy and pine garlands around a very large embroidery hoop. Add pine cones, red berries, bells and red bows for an easy, but beautiful wreath.



**"COMPLETE YOUR
CHRISTMAS CRAFTING
SCENE BY PLAYING
SOME FESTIVE TUNES
AND MAKING A LOVELY
HOT CHOCOLATE"**

**Jecelyn Latimer,
Editorial Assistant**

- ★ Want to revamp your old baubles? Adhere Christmas decoupage papers to them and, once dry, wrap a length of ribbon or burlap around the middle.
- ★ Check out the cheaper shops such as Poundland – they usually have a fantastic selection of decorations. Select the vintage-looking pieces and add matching embellishments to bring them to life.
- ★ Use brown paper to wrap gifts, then decorate with pretty tartan ribbon and sprigs of pine or holly to finish the look.
- ★ Stamp nostalgic images into air dry clay, cut, then thread onto ribbon for unusual gift tags that can be reused as decorations. You could even let your little ones paint them!

4 Retro garland

A good garland never goes amiss at Christmas! You could make your own using card and printed retro motifs, but if you're looking for something quicker, this Victorian Father Christmas banner will add instant splendour to your home.

pipii.co.uk



5 Stamped wishes

For a fast and easy way to create a themed range, use stamps! We're loving these vintage-inspired prints from craftyindividuals.co.uk. Try pressing them onto lush card, then laminate and cut out using a punch for unique decorations.

6 Seasonal fabrics

From plush tree decorations, festive pillows and wall hangers, fabric goodies are a firm favourite to make. The Christmas Santa stamps fabric is from tikkilondon.com and the holly and tartan fabrics are available from alwaysknittingandsewing.co.uk



7 Bauble love

Baubles are a given when decorating the tree, and if you want to go for the nostalgic look, then these robin ones from tch.net are perfect. If you fancy giving them a go, use clear plastic baubles from bakerross.co.uk to fill with your own designs.

8 Vintage scenes

Packaging makes an important first impression, and to keep up the theme of your nostalgic look, opt for old-time papers. These spectacular prints from razzledazzlerose.co.uk are perfect for the job. Make sure to save any leftovers and add it to your card making collection!



VOTE ONLINE TODAY AT CRAFTAWARDS.COM



ONLINE:

Best Online Retailer

- ☐ Joanna Sheen
- ☐ Hunkydory Crafts
- ☐ Create and Craft
- ☐ Claritystamp

Other.....

Best Craft Blog

- ☐ Tonic Studio
- ☐ Hunkydory Crafts
- ☐ PartiCraft Sue Wilson
- ☐ Barbara Gray

Other.....

PRODUCTS/PRODUCT RANGES:

Best New Product 2014

- ☐ Spellbinders Tool 'n One
- ☐ Tattered Lace dies
- ☐ Brother ScanNCut
- ☐ Hunkydory Crafts paper pads
- ☐ Tattered Lace embossing folders

Other.....

Favourite Papercraft Range 2014

- ☐ docrafts
- ☐ Hunkydory Crafts
- ☐ Craftwork Cards
- ☐ Graphic 45

Other.....

Best Sticking Product Range

- ☐ Creative Expressions – Cosmic Shimmer
- ☐ Pinflair
- ☐ Stix2
- ☐ Collall All-Purpose Glue

Other.....

Best Craft Punch Range

- ☐ Woodware Craft Collection
- ☐ Xcut
- ☐ Tonic Studios
- ☐ Martha Stewart

Other.....

Best Gadget/Machine Investment in 2014

- ☐ Sizzix Big Shot
- ☐ Brother ScanNCut
- ☐ Spellbinders Grand Calibur
- ☐ eBoss

Other.....

Best Painting Range

- ☐ Cosmic Shimmer
- ☐ Pebeo
- ☐ Sheena Douglass

Other.....

Best Rubber Stamping Range

- ☐ Creative Expressions
- ☐ Clearly Stamps, Hunkydory Crafts
- ☐ Sheena Douglass
- ☐ Claritystamp

Other.....

Best Baking Range for Crafts

- ☐ Little Venice Cake Company
- ☐ Cake Lace
- ☐ Wilton
- ☐ Katy Sue Designs

Other.....

Best New Craft Book 2014

- ☐ Love At First Stitch by Tilly Walnes (Quadrille)
- ☐ Sew Bunting by Debbie Shore (Search Press)
- ☐ Half Yard Heaven by Debbie Shore (Search Press)
- ☐ Zentangle 1 Basics Expanded Workbook Edition by Suzanne McNeill (Design Originals)
- ☐ Crafting with Hunkydory – Compendium 3

Other.....

Best CD-Rom/DVD Product

- ☐ Serif Craft Artist
- ☐ Joanna Sheen One Summer's Day
- ☐ Bebbuni by Crafter's Companion
- ☐ Debbi Moore Shabby Chic

Other.....

Favourite Knitting & Stitching Product

- ☐ Deramores yarn
- ☐ Clover Pom Pom Maker
- ☐ Patons yarn
- ☐ Sirdar Wash 'n' Wear DK Wool

Other.....

Favourite Fabric Range

- ☐ Moda
- ☐ Liberty of London

- ☐ Cath Kidston
- ☐ Tilda
- ☐ Pinflair

Other.....

Best Sewing Machine Brand

- ☐ Janome
- ☐ Toyota
- ☐ Singer
- ☐ Brother

Other.....

RETAILERS:

Best Independent Store (please select appropriate area only)

North of England

- ☐ Stamps by Me, Wakefield
- ☐ Chloe's Creative Cards, Durham
- ☐ Inspirations, Preston
- ☐ Crafty Corner, South Shields

Other.....

South of England

- ☐ Craftasmic, Taunton
- ☐ Crafty Devils, Devon
- ☐ Oyster Stamps, Kent
- ☐ Pinnacle Crafts, Billericay

Other.....

Midlands

- ☐ Sunrise Crafts, Wolverhampton
- ☐ Honeypot Crafts, Nottingham
- ☐ Mountain Ash Crafts, Stourbridge
- ☐ Pink Tulip Creations, Studley

Other.....

Scotland

- ☐ Stampers Grove, Edinburgh
- ☐ Craft World, Glasgow
- ☐ Days to Remember, Falkirk
- ☐ The Papeterie, Aberdeen

Other.....

Wales

- ☐ Craft Age, Llandudno
- ☐ Bizzyfingers, Port Talbot
- ☐ Dandie Crafts, Pontypridd

Other.....

Ireland

- ☐ Inspiring Ideas, Dublin
- ☐ Craft Corner, Coleraine

- ☐ Craftworld, Belfast

Other.....

Best TV Shopping Channel for Crafts

- ☐ QVC
- ☐ JewelleryMaker
- ☐ Create and Craft

Other.....

Best UK Craft Exhibition/Show 2014

- ☐ Summer Crafting, Doncaster
- ☐ The Knitting & Stitching Show, London
- ☐ The Great British Craft Festival, Midlands
- ☐ Hobbycrafts, NEC, Birmingham

Other.....

Best Craft Chain Store

- ☐ Samuel Taylors
- ☐ The Range
- ☐ Hobbycraft

Other.....

PERSONALITIES:

Best Overall Designer 2014

- ☐ Rebecca Seddon
- ☐ Debbi Moore
- ☐ Stephanie Weightman
- ☐ Barbara Gray

Other.....

Favourite Craft Celebrity

- ☐ Dean Wilson
- ☐ Barbara Gray
- ☐ Leonie Pujol
- ☐ Anne-Marie Catterall

Other.....

**WIN
AN iPad AIR
PLUS A
CRAFTY
STASH**

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SignatureToday's Date.....

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Conditions of entry:

All entries must be received/completed online by midnight on 21st December 2014. This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies & their families.

Only one entry per person. The prize consists of 1 x 32GB iPad Air, plus a collection of prizes from the winners of the 2014 Craft Awards and will be given to a randomly selected entrant drawn at random within 2 weeks of the closing date. Entries must be on the forms provided (no purchase necessary) or online at www.craftawards.com. Photocopies are NOT accepted. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by the rules and regulations will be disqualified. No responsibility held for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post, proof of posting is not proof of delivery.

No correspondence will be entered into, only the winner will be notified by post. Winner name and county will be available by sending a SAE marked Craft Awards 2014 to Marketing Department, 21-23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY

VOTE ONLINE TODAY AT CRAFTAWARDS.COM



Crafts
BEAUTIFUL
PaperCrafter



"The Craft Awards are a wonderful opportunity for CB readers to celebrate those hard-working people who make our industry great"

Sarah Crosland, Editor

VOTE IN THE CRAFT AWARDS TODAY! CRAFTAWARDS.COM

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE COMPANIES
AND WIN A BUMPER STASH OF GOODIES PLUS AN iPad AIR!

We've recently been asking you to nominate your favourite companies and here are the top contenders but, of course, if you don't spot someone you feel deserves a mention, simply write the product, person or company under 'Other'. So tell us who your top

creative brands are, from the online retailer you visit again and again to the craft tool you just couldn't live without. Not only do you get to have your say, but you will also be in with the chance of winning a selection of craft goodies and an iPad Air.



WIN AN iPad AIR PLUS PRIZES FROM ALL THE WINNING BRANDS!

Cast your votes to be automatically entered into the prize draw and you could win a 32GB iPad Air plus a stash of craft products from all the companies voted the best in this year's national Craft Awards. Simply take a look at the nominations and pick your favourite – it's as simple as that!

Please complete your details on the form (opposite page) and send to: Crafts Beautiful Craft Awards Voting 2014, Marketing Department, 21-23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY.

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A big 'thank you' from
some of the nominees

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Five nominations! How exciting! Thank you so much for putting
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but also **Best Craft Blog**.

www.barbaragrayblog.blogspot.co.uk

Quite simply, *Thank You*
for your nominations!

www.claritystamp.co.uk

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specialists in paper craft supplies

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nominated for **Best Independent
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www.stampersgrove.co.uk

BEST IND. STORE WALES

Bizzyfingers 

Thank you to all of our
crafting friends for
nominating us for **Best
Independent Store in Wales!**

Upper Floor
Aberafan Shopping Centre
Port Talbot, SA13 1PB
01639 892253

FAVOURITE CRAFT CELEBRITY LEONIE PUJOL

"I am so honoured to be nominated"

...as your favourite craft
celebrity. Thank you so much!
Don't forget to keep voting
and please watch us live
at **Create and Craft TV!**


Favourite Craft Celebrity
Leonie Pujol



www.createandcraft.tv Sky 674, Freeview 36
Freesat 813 Virgin 748

The 2014 Craft Awards

A big 'thank you' from
some of the nominees



BEST SEWING MACHINE BRAND



JANOME

The World's leading sewing machine manufacturer

We are delighted to have been nominated for
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in *Crafts Beautiful* 2014 Craft Awards.

With over 60 million Janome machines sold worldwide, Janome is renowned for quality & reliability at affordable prices and our aim is to provide customers with an unrivalled level of service. What makes these awards so special is that they are voted for by the readers of *Crafts Beautiful*, a magazine we highly respect.

We'd like to thank everyone who voted for Janome, we really appreciate their support.

BEST INDEPENDENT STORE SOUTH OF ENGLAND



Oyster Paper Crafts

I Want it - I Need it!!

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Rochester Kent. ME13QX. Tel: 01634 686823

We are humbled to announce that we
have been nominated for
Best Independent Craft Store in the South of England

All that we can say is, simply, **THANK YOU!!**

Love & big hugs - The Oyster Team

If you would like to vote for us
please visit www.craftawards.com

BEST INDEPENDENT STORE MIDLANDS



Sunrise Crafts

A big **THANK YOU**
to everyone who nominated us to be
**'Best Independent Store
in the Midlands'.**

Visit us at www.sunrisecrafts.co.uk to
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To vote for us please visit
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The 2014 Craft Awards

A big 'thank you' from some of the nominees

BEST INDEPENDENT STORE SCOTLAND



The Papeterie

To say thank you to everyone who votes for us in the Best Independent Store - Scotland category we would like to offer customers 20% discount on production of this advert at the shop, or by quoting code CB2014 on telephone orders. T&Cs Apply

BEST NEW PRODUCT 2014

Tattered Lace™ DIES
Designed by Stephanie Weightman

THANK YOU

to everyone who has already voted for us.

Best New Product 2014 - Tattered Lace™ Dies
Best New Product 2014 - Tattered Lace™ Embossing Folders
Best UK Craft Exhibition Show 2014 - Summer Crafting™
Best Designer 2014 - Stephanie Weightman

Please visit
www.crafts-beautiful.com
to cast your vote.

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vote with your heart!**

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BEST NEW PRODUCT 2014

brother

at your side

A huge thank you to everyone who nominated us for these 3 Awards.

Best New Product 2014 ScanNCut
Best Gadget/Machine Investment in 2014
Best Sewing Machine Brand category

BEST CRAFT BLOG

Thank You!

FOR NOMINATING US

t o n i c
s t u d i o s

The 2014 Craft Awards

A big 'thank you' from some of the nominees



FAVOURITE CRAFT CELEBRITY DEAN WILSON

Dear Crafters, I would like to...

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for nominating me as your favourite Craft Celebrity. It's my pleasure to entertain you!"

Create AND CRAFT

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BEST INDEPENDENT STORE MIDLANDS

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to everyone who nominated us, we are so appreciative of your support, please continue to vote for us!

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01384 221554

FAVOURITE PAPER CRAFT RANGE

Hunkydory CRAFTS • LIMITED •

Thank you!

Everyone at Hunkydory Towers would like to say a huge thank you for nominating us in the Craft Awards 2014. Don't forget to vote for us in the following categories...

BEST ONLINE RETAILER	Hunkydory Crafts
BEST CRAFT BLOG	Hunkydory Crafts
BEST NEW PRODUCT 2014	Hunkydory Paper Pads
FAVOURITE PAPER CRAFT RANGE	Hunkydory Crafts
BEST RUBBER STAMPING RANGE	Hunkydory Clearly Stamps
BEST CRAFT BOOK	Hunkydory Compendium 3
BEST INDEPENDENT STORE NORTH OF ENGLAND	Inspirations, Preston
BEST UK CRAFT EXHIBITION/SHOW	The Great British Craft Festival
FAVOURITE CRAFT CELEBRITY	Anne-Marie Catterall
BEST OVERALL DESIGNER 2014	Rebecca Seddon

Made by You:

NORDIC STOCKING

PLACE THIS DELIGHTFUL RED AND WHITE STOCKING AT THE END OF YOUR BED THIS CHRISTMAS AND GET OODLES OF PRESENTS BY MORNING



WHAT YOU NEED

- Fabric: red, 40cm x 50cm;
- Interfacing, fusible
- Thread, machine, white
- white, 40cm x 50cm;
- Ribbon, striped, red and white, 10cm
- Tailor's chalk
- Wadding, 2oz, 50cm x 60cm
- Beads, small, white x 34
- Sewing machine

All seam allowances are 1cm

SOURCE IT...

Red fabrics & heart ribbon:

Purple Stitches
01256 882163
purple-stitches.com

Flower buttons & striped ribbon:

Craft Clearance
01536 481778
craftclearance.co.uk

Prism embroidery threads:

Blooming Felt
01245 471690
bloomingfelt.co.uk

Craft tip

We used a width of 3.5mm and a length of 0.6mm on our sewing machine when embroidering the snowflakes



"TO MAKE IT EASIER WHEN EMBROIDERING THE SNOWFLAKES, I PUT A SHEET OF PAPER UNDER THE WADDING TO STOP IT CATCHING ON THE SEWING MACHINE – THIS CAN BE REMOVED EASILY AFTERWARDS"

Helen Newton,
Designer

Coming next time...

Upcycle a basket to make a snuggly bed for your dog

Design detail

Make a set of stockings in various colours and line them up along the mantelpiece to build up excitement

1 Draw and cut paper pattern pieces from the templates provided. The main stocking piece is in two halves, so join along the dotted line. Cut two from red fabric, two from white and two from wadding. Trim a cuff from red gingham fabric and another from wadding, half the height as indicated on the template.

2 On the red stocking pieces, mark the positions for various snowflakes. Place one shape on top of the cut wadding and tack in

place. Thread a sewing machine with white and set to narrow satin stitch – sew the straight long lines of the snowflake first, then stitch the shorter ones. Start and finish each line with a few back stitches to secure. Repeat with the other red stocking shape.

3 Place the two stocking pieces right sides together and stitch all the way around, leaving the top open. Trim the excess wadding and seam, then turn out. Sew the two lining pieces together, leaving the top

open. Place inside the red stocking. Match the raw edges of fabric, wadding and seams, then tack.

4 Trace the heart template six times onto fusible webbing and cut out. Press each one onto white fabric and trim carefully around the hearts. Peel off the backing and line up the six shapes in a row along the cuff – the points of the hearts should face towards the centre of the cuff. Press, then secure each heart with a satin stitch border.

5 Place the wadding along the back of the cuff and tack. Fold in half, matching the shorter side edges, and stitch the seam. Trim the seam and fold the cuff down to enclose the wadding. Place inside the stocking, matching the centre cuff seam with the back one of the stocking. Fold ribbon in half and insert between these two seams. Pin all around the top and stitch. Trim the seams and fold the cuff over. Sew beads to the snowflakes to finish. **CB**

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Cromford Mill Mill Road DE4 3RQ
01629 825936 quiltessential.co.uk

quiltessential

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purple stitches
beautiful fabrics and haberdashery

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We have:

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- ♥ fabric organisers and more

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Saturday 10am to 5pm
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We ♥ fabrics from:
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Riley Blake
Robert Kaufman
Windham Fabrics

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Web watch

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE INTERNET BROWSING! WE SHARE OUR FAVE SELECTION OF ONLINE FINDS

Blog love

Chelsea Foy lives in California with her husband and works full-time on her blog lovelyindeed.com



Why did you set up the blog?

I started blogging shortly after my husband proposed in 2010. We've always enjoyed making things and decided that we wanted a DIY

wedding, which is when Lovely Indeed was born! The blog reflects the things that we create, and it's become not only my job but a great joy and outlet.

What crafts do you like to do?

I particularly love making things that have a purpose. Some of my favourite projects are things I use every day. I also tend to put a funky twist on things – bright colours, lots of gold, and some humour where I can inject it!

What's your fave thing about blogging?

It's tough to pick a favourite part of what I do! I love the creative community; I've met so many brilliant people. It's just a dream to be able to work with my hands and create things every day, and call that my job.



DOWNLOADER

FREEBIES FOR YOU TO USE IN YOUR CRAFT PROJECTS

1dogwoof.com

Free crochet star ornament pattern

liagriffith.com

Downloadable Christmas gift wrapping paper

thisheartofmineblog.com

Printable holiday envelopes to enjoy

YOURS FOR FREE!

To download the recipe for these stunning Christmas pudding rum balls from Primrose Christmas Bakery by Martha Swift (Square Peg, £20) visit our website at **crafts-beautiful.com** by 12/12/2014



Must Visit!

CLIKCRAFT.COM

For crafters who want to set up a website without the cost and hassle of doing it themselves, Clikcraft is a must-visit. This new easy-to-use service allows you to enjoy their online admin system and select from a wide choice of stylish templates to create and edit a dream website for all your creative needs. They can even help you open your own online shop! Sign up today for a free 14 day trial and see where the fun takes you.



Pinterest

We've been getting ready for Santa with a selection of stockings on our Christmas board!



FIND US ON PINTEREST
PINTEREST.COM/CRAFTSBEAUTIFUL



etsy.com/shop/christmasclaudef



poppycocreative.blogspot.com



purpleliondesigns.typepad.com



redheart.com



KEEP A CHILD'S NIGHTWEAR TOASTY WARM
WITH SOPHIA PALMER'S

Pyjama bag



"THIS DESIGN IS IDEAL
FOR THE WINTRY MONTHS
AHEAD – YOU COULD EVEN
MAKE A MATCHING HOT
WATER BOTTLE COVER!"

Sophia Palmer, Designer

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fabric, linen: spotted, red, grey, blue; lining
- Thread, machine embroidery: white, black, grey
- Felt, black
- Cotton tape, white
- Fusible webbing
- Sewing machine with quilting foot

Craft tip

When appliquéing the teddy, take great care turning on the edges to get a smooth line

PYJAMA BAG

1 Cut red spot fabric, 52cm x 74cm, and repeat with lining material. Iron the red piece in half lengthways, so you can see the centre of the fabric. Trace the teddy and pyjama templates from our pattern pages onto fusible webbing. Cut around them roughly and iron one side to the back of grey and blue spot fabric.

2 Trim the pieces neatly. Iron the teddy in place in the centre of one half of the red spot fabric, moving it 1cm towards the fold to be mindful of the seam. Use grey thread to machine appliqué in place. Repeat for the pyjamas.

3 Attach a quilting foot to your machine and change the thread to black. Free-hand machine embroider details onto the pyjamas, then cut out a small black felt nose and sew in place.

4 Place the lining along the top of the pyjama bag, right sides together. Press open the seam. Fold the whole bag and lining lengthways in half, right sides together. Pin in place.

5 Starting from the folded red spot corner, sew along the bottom in white thread, up the side, onto the lining side, and when you join the bottom of the lining, leave a 5cm to 10cm gap.

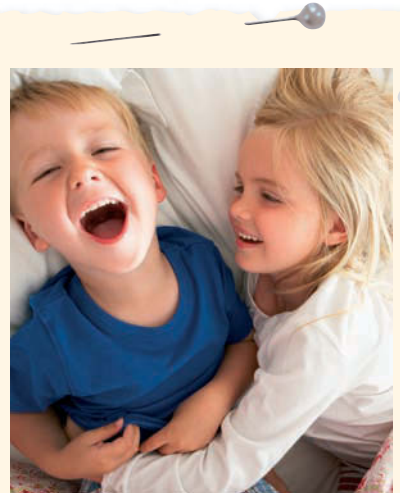
6 Pull the entire bag the right way out through the gap. Sew up the gap and press flat. Fold the lining inside the main bag and iron neatly in place.

7 Stitch a channel, 10cm from the very top edge of the bag. Snip a small hole into the

seams to gain access. Attach a safety pin to the end of cotton tape and feed it through the channel. Tie a knot to stop the drawstring being pulled back through and press flat to finish. **CB**

SOURCE IT...

Spotty linen fabric, The Homemakery, 01483 361132, thehomemakery.co.uk



“What a great gift idea!”

Why not give these bags to your children or grandchildren on Christmas Eve as an early present? You could pop new pyjamas inside and they could wear them on Christmas morning – nothing quite beats new nightwear!



LOOK COOL THIS WINTER AND SPARK
A TREND WITH THESE GLITTERY

Hand warmers

WHAT YOU NEED

- Yarn, DK, turquoise, beaded/sparkly, 100g
- Needles: single-pointed, 3.5mm, 4mm; tapestry

Abbreviations

k knit
k2tog knit two together
ktbl knit through the back loop
MB make bobble
p purl
psso pass slipped stitch over

rep repeat
sl1 slip one stitch
st(s) stitch(es)
yfwd yarn forward (between knit stitches)
WS wrong side

HAND WARMERS

Make two. Using 4mm needles, cast on 37 sts, then ktbl to form a neat edge.

Next row: k3 *MB, k5*, rep from * to * to last 4 sts, MB, k3.
 MB: Make a bobble all in the same stitch. Knit into front, back and front again of same st, turn. Sl1, k1, psso, k1, pass previous st over. You are now back to the original 1 stitch.

Main pattern

Row 1 and every odd-numbered row (WS): p

Row 2: *k10, sl1, k1, psso, yfwd*, rep from * to * to last st, k1

Row 4: k9, sl1, k1, psso, yfwd, *k10, sl1, k1, psso, yfwd*, rep from * to * to last 2 sts, k2

Row 6: *k8, (sl1, k1, psso, yfwd) twice*, rep from * to * to last st, k1

Row 8: k7, (sl1, k1, psso, yfwd) twice, *k8, (sl1, k1, psso, yfwd) twice*, rep from * to * to last

2 sts, k2

Row 10: *k6, (sl1, k1, psso, yfwd) three times*, rep from * to * to last st, k1

Row 12: k5, (sl1, k1, psso, yfwd) three times, *k6, (sl1, k1, psso, yfwd) three times*, rep from * to * to last 2 sts, k2

Row 14: *k4, (sl1, k1, psso, yfwd) four times*, rep from * to * to last st, k1

Row 16: k1, *yfwd, k2tog, k10*, rep from * to * to end of row

Row 18: k2, yfwd, k2tog, *k10, yfwd, k2tog*, rep from * to * to last 9 sts, k9

Row 20: k1, *yfwd, k2tog) twice, k8*, rep from * to * to end of row

Row 22: k2, (yfwd, k2tog) twice, *k8, (yfwd, k2tog) twice*, rep from * to * to last 7 sts, k7

Row 24: k1, *yfwd, k2tog) three times, k6*, rep from * to * to end of row

Row 26: k2, (yfwd, k2tog) three times, *k6 (yfwd, k2tog) three times*, rep from * to * to last 5 sts, k5

Row 28: k1, *yfwd, k2tog) four times, k4*, rep from * to * to end of row

Repeat rows 1–17 once more
 Change to 3.5mm needles

Next row: *k1, p1*, rep from * to * to last st, k1

Next row: p1, *k1, p1*, rep from * to * to end of row
 Cast off all stitches.

TO MAKE UP

Join the side seams using a tapestry needle and mattress stitch, 7cm from the wrist end (cast-on edge) and 5cm from the finger end.

This will leave a gap for your thumb to go through. Weave in all loose ends to finish. **CB**

"MAKE SURE TO USE A SHIMMERING YARN TO COMPLEMENT THE LOVELY KNITTED LACY EFFECT"

Monica Russel, Designer

Knitting essentials



Sirdar Soukie DK, £2.75 for 50g, wool4less.co.uk



Knit Pro Symfonie Double Point Needles, from £6.29, woolwarehouse.co.uk



Clover jumbo darning needles, £4.59, deramores.com



Bronze owl stitch markers, £3.99, charmedknitting.co.uk

Behind the book...



WE CATCH UP WITH AUTHOR AND DESIGNER, MONICA RUSSEL TO CHAT ABOUT ALL THINGS KNITTED

How did you get into knitting?

I wanted a career that would enable my hours to be flexible and work that would channel my creative side after I had an accident. I have knitted since my teens, but had never been brave enough to design my own work. I took this opportunity to try something new and I've never looked back. I'm always planning new things and love working with a huge range of colours and textures.

What's the inspiration behind the book?

When I was given the opportunity to do my third book for Search Press, they asked me to make one on wrist warmers. I used nature, art, colours and textures to inspire me. I also decided to try out different lace and cable designs

and border patterns on the projects, which was great fun. My goal was to create a range that would cover various ages and tastes.

What's next on your to-knit list?

Bunting, hot water bottle covers, cushions and men's jumpers have been recently commissioned by a magazine, and there's perhaps even another book in the pipeline. In my spare time I'd like to design a new jumper for myself, but this needs to be fitted into my busy schedule! I'd love to knit with some more unusual yarns and I am hoping to get some gorgeous ones on my upcoming trip to Scotland.

READER DETAILS...

This project has been adapted from Knitted Wrist Warmers by Monica Russel (Search Press, £4.99). To find out more, visit searchpress.com



SOURCE IT...

Sirdar Ella DK in Tropic, Wool4Less, 0845 003 0775, wool4less.co.uk

Knitting needles, Black Sheep Wools, 01925 764231, blacksheepwools.com

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THEME THIS CHRISTMAS WITH JOANNA SHEEN'S

House MOUSE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper, House Mouse Christmas collection pad
- Card blank, white
- Card: white, dark red
- Pearls, red
- Glitter, white
- Adhesives: tape, double-sided; foam pads, 3-D; glue



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

1 Cut dark red card, 14.5cm x 20.5cm, and layer white, 14cm x 20cm, on top with double-sided tape. Add to a top-folding card blank, 15cm x 21cm. Cut blue and red patterned paper, 5cm x 15cm, then secure it vertically to the left side of the card.

2 Layer the main image onto white and dark red, then fix to the front using foam pads. Secure a 'Happy Christmas' sentiment onto dark red and attach using foam pads, overlapping the image as shown.

3 Cut out a small mouse motif, then matt onto white and attach using foam pads. Highlight areas on the main image using small amounts of glue and glitter. Fix six red pearls to finish. **CB**



"THIS CARD IS VERY QUICK TO
MAKE AND IS PERFECT FOR
A LAST-MINUTE PROJECT"

Joanna Sheen, Designer

SOURCE IT...

All materials used for this project are available from Joanna Sheen Ltd, joannasheen.com

Really Useful CRAFT TIPS

CB READERS SHARE THEIR CRAFTY ADVICE

Stencil Easy

Hot glue guns are great for sticking, but they also make fab stencils too! Create your design on waxed paper, leave to dry, then remove and use how you wish

Sue Rettke, via Twitter

Sticks & Straws

Find it hard to turn out small sewing projects? Insert a straw inside your make, then with a knitting needle, poke into the straw from the outside and push down. Remove the needle from the inside

Susan Patel, via email



Brush Revival

Don't throw out your old paintbrushes: use them with ink-pads to create unique textured effects for your card projects

Jane Hurst, via email



Surface Protection

Do you craft on a table but want to avoid staining the surface? Buy a plastic party table cover and wipe with a simple disinfectant after use. Alternatively, use old newspapers!

Tina Stevens, via Twitter

SEW TOGETHER

Hair bobby pins are great for holding fabrics together when sewing. Store them in a small plastic box when not in use

Martha Swift, Kent

Painting Simple

Painting a room or furniture?

Line a paint tray with a few sheets of tinfoil for an easy clean-up

Jade Simmons, via Facebook

FLOWER SHOW

Pop small magnets to the backs of decorative flowers, then add metal tacks to the wall and put together to create your own beautiful panel

Liz Crawford, via email



EASY CLEANING

For an easy way to clean your crafting iron, pour salt on your ironing board, then iron the salt with the steam option off. The dirt on your iron will stick to the salt!

Penny Forbes, via email



"BE MINDFUL OF YOUR POSTURE WHEN SITTING TO KNIT OR CROCHET: YOU DON'T WANT TO GET ANY CRAMPS OR PAINS!"

Jennifer Ward, Editorial Assistant at PaperCrafter and Let's Get Crafting magazines

warestreetmarket.com

Do you like funky, one-of-a-kind gifts and goodies? The desire to find unique products continues to grow year by year, so head on over to Ware Street Market and find that perfect gift – it has something for everyone. And the best part? It's all handmade! Christina Pengelly, the brain-child behind this new online market, shares her top tips with us.

- 1 Finding crochet tricky to learn? Use a Loomatics hook to gather the yarn as it has a more rounded hook and will hang onto the yarn a little better
- 2 Add washing liquid to acrylic paint to keep it from separating and beading on the surface
- 3 To easily cut paper and have a cleaner finish, rotate the paper, not the scissors, when cutting



WARE STREET
Market



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If you've a crafty tip or trick you'd like to share, get in touch via Twitter, Facebook or social.cb@aceville.co.uk



IT'S HOLIDAY TIME SO KEEP THE KIDS BUSY
AND GET CRAFTY WITH OUR

Beaded bauble

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pony beads, metallic colours
- Pompoms, neon
- Pipe cleaners
- Enamel dots, glitter colours
- Adhesive toppers
- Ribbon, satin
- Wire cutters
- Glue gun

Design detail

These ideas can easily be made by children - just replace the hot glue gun with a PVA adhesive

BAUBLE WREATH

1 Sort out the pony beads into groups of colours. Make rows of your preferred colour sequence before starting on the bauble wreath.

2 Thread the beads onto a pipe cleaner in order of the row, repeating the sequence until the stem is nearly full, leaving approximately 3cm at each end. Repeat the process twice to make three beaded stems.

3 Twist the beaded stems around each other. Bring the two ends together to form a ring, twisting the ends of the stems together to secure. Using wire cutters, trim away any excess stem. Bind this area with a length of green ribbon.

4 Tie a purple satin bow and stick it to the green ribbon using the hot glue gun. Place a glitter dot on the knot of the bow. Finally, thread a length of purple satin ribbon through the top of the wreath and tie the ends in a knot to form a neat hanging loop. **CB**



SOURCE IT...

All products used for this project are available from The Range, 0845 026 7598, therange.co.uk

TAP INTO CHRISTMAS NOSTALGIA AND USE
MATERIAL AND FELT TO CREATE A COLLECTION OF

Fabric postcards

Craft tip

For accuracy, write a
greeting on tissue paper,
pin the paper to the fabric
and machine or hand
stitch over it



"FOR A UNIQUE LETTER TO SANTA, ASK YOUR CHILD TO WRITE
ON THE FABRIC WITH A LAUNDRY MARKER"

Carolyn Letten, Designer

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fabric: Christmas Wish, Dashwood Studio; patterned, dark green, light green, cream; plain, red
- Felt, green: dark, light
- Wadding
- Interfacing, iron-on: pelmet; standard
- Embellishments: ricrac, spotty, red; ribbons,
- Christmas, assorted; buttons, white, small, medium; red, small, large; bell, silver; flower, beaded, silver
- Bias binding, red, spotty
- Stamps, acrylic, alphabet
- Ink-pad, black
- Shears, pinking
- Glue stick

SILVER BELL

1 Cut cream fabric, 14cm x 19cm, and back with interfacing. Cut patterned red fabric, two 2cm x 19cm strips and two 2cm x 14cm lengths, and pin all sides of the cream, right sides facing. Stitch, leaving a 5mm seam allowance along the outside edge. Fold the strips back and press. Sew all the way around using red thread, 2mm from the fold. Stamp a 'Post Card' sentiment using black ink. Embroider a greeting and address in navy, then press.

2 Trim spotty poinsettia fabric, 2.5cm x 3cm, glue to the top-right corner, then sew green scallops and black waves onto it and press. Cut wadding, 14cm x 19cm, then cut patterned green fabric, 18cm x 23cm, and lay it wrong side up. Place the wadding in the middle and lay the postcard front side up, then pin together. Stitch a line down the middle and through the layers, then press.

3 Starting at the bottom, fold the backing fabric over the front, then fold over again to create the binding. Pin into place, mitre the corners and stitch. Set aside. Cut a 6cm circle from red snowman fabric using pinking shears. Make four 5cm circles from patterned cream fabrics. Fold each cream circle in half and half again to create triangles. Sew each point to the centre of the red to make a circle. Cut a small light green felt circle and glue to the middle.



4 Stitch ribbon, 36cm, to the top-left corner and secure the decorated circle over the top before adding a silver bell to the middle. Fold the other ribbon end under and secure to the right with a red button. Cut two holly leaves in shades of green and sew to the bottom-right corner with a red button for a berry.

MISTLETOE WISHES

1 Back cream fabric, 12cm x 16cm, with iron-on interfacing. Stamp a 'Post Card' sentiment to the top-middle. Cut a red snowman motif into a small rectangle, glue it to the top-right, then add decorative stitches. Make a greeting in blue, then press. Cut wadding and red fabric to the same size as the front. Place the wadding between the red and the postcard, right side up, then pin together. Sew a line down the middle and under the 'Post Card' wording.

2 Stitch around and through the layers. Slot a length of spotty red bias binding, 65cm, onto the post card and cover all the raw edges, then pin and secure. Cut a 'Christmas Wish' sentiment from fabric and sew to the bottom-right corner. Trim two mistletoe branches from green felt, then fix them to the top-left. Stitch green striped ribbon, 30cm, to the top corners. Add buttons over the right ribbon piece, mistletoe and phrase, then sew a decorative silver trim to the left. **CB**

“Make one with a star theme”

✳ Cut pelmet interfacing, 11cm x 15.5cm, then trim floral fabric, 12.5cm x 17cm. Use a glue stick to hold the interfacing to the middle of the fabric, wrong side up. Fold each side over onto the front, mitre the corners, then stitch.

✳ Place cream fabric, 9cm x 14cm, to the middle of the section, then sew close to the edges and press. Secure spotty red ricrac, 50cm, over the raw edges.

✳ Write a greeting on the front. Stitch three yellow curved lines and sew a star button where they meet. Fold metallic blue ribbon, 25cm, into three small loops, then secure it to the top-left. Add a large red and star button over the ends.

SOURCE IT...

Metallic trim, Mei Flower, meiflower.co.uk

Dashwood Studio 'Christmas Wish' fabrics, Patch Fabrics, patchfabrics.co.uk

Red spotty bias binding, Pocket and Pin, pocketandpin.co.uk



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We hope you love this month's most inspiring craft ideas as much as we do

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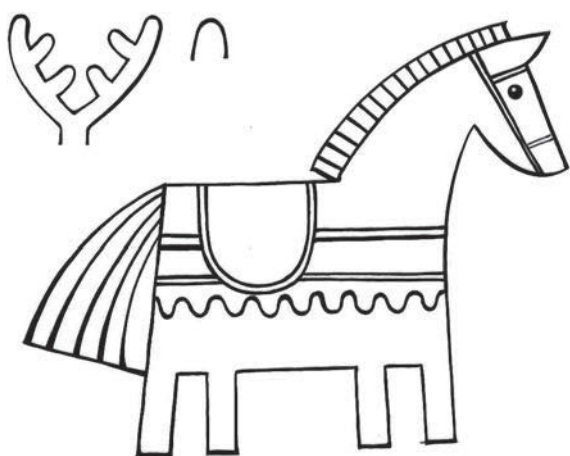


Scandi shapes

Cathie Shuttleworth

Page 44

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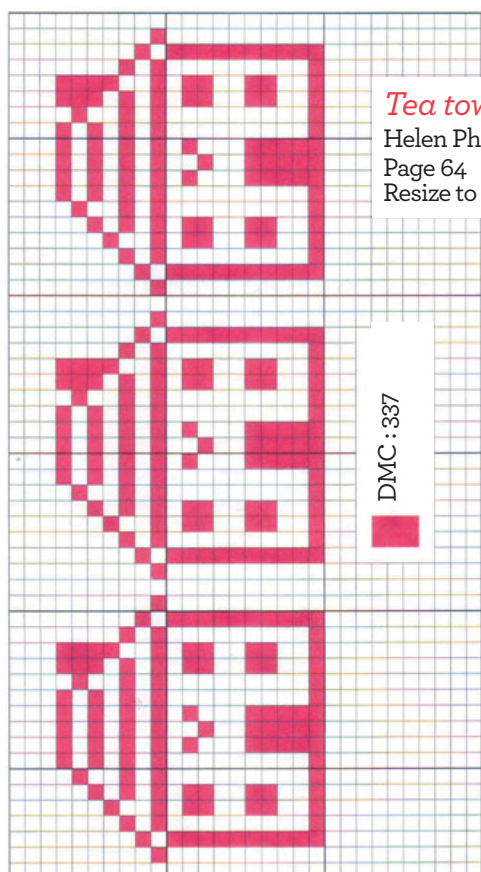
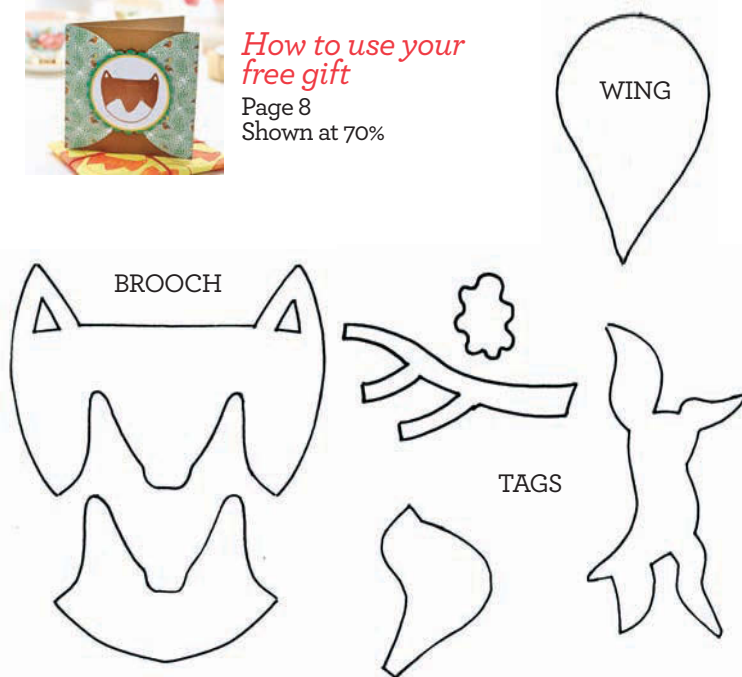
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How to use your free gift

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Tea towels

Helen Philipps

Page 64

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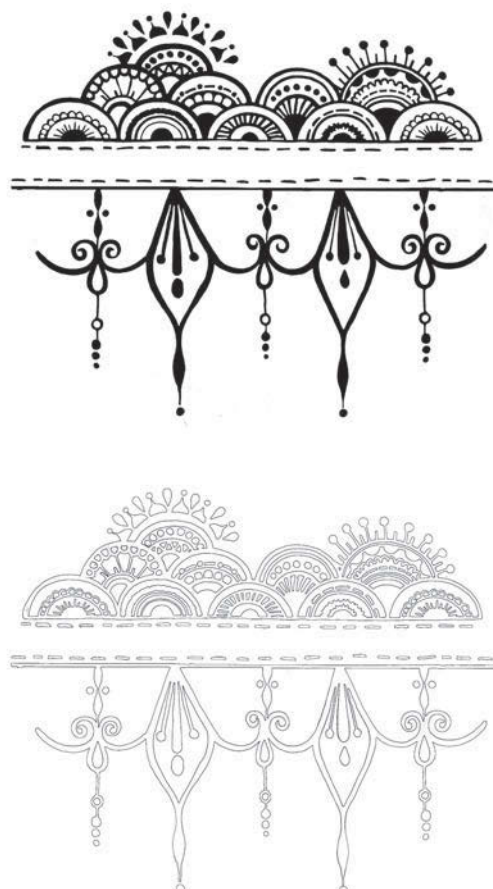


Coffee break

Sharon Bennett

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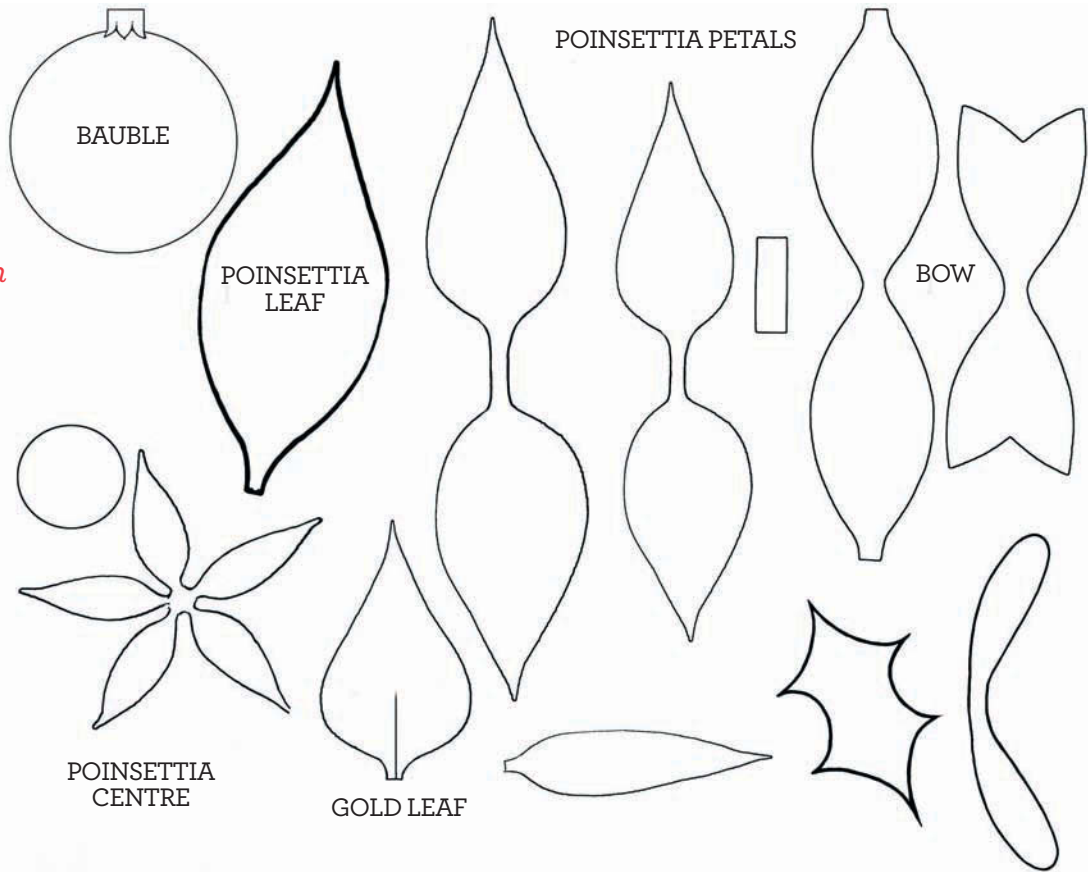
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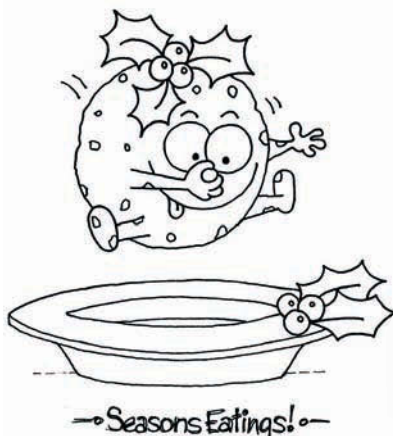
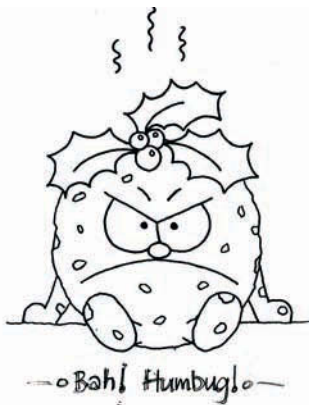
Christmas with Duck Tape

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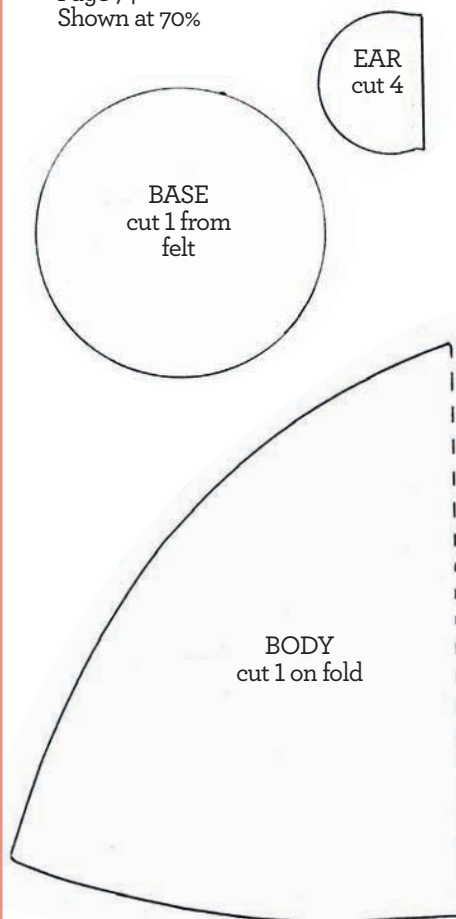
Christmas puds

Colette Smith
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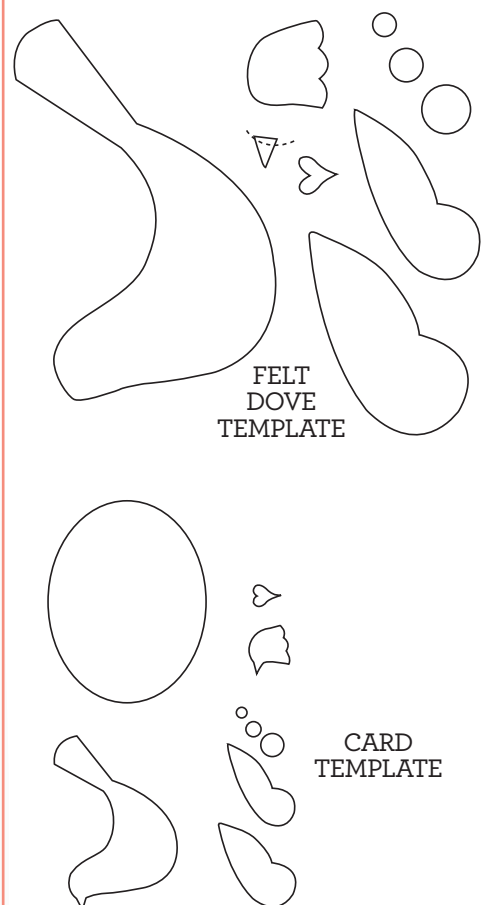
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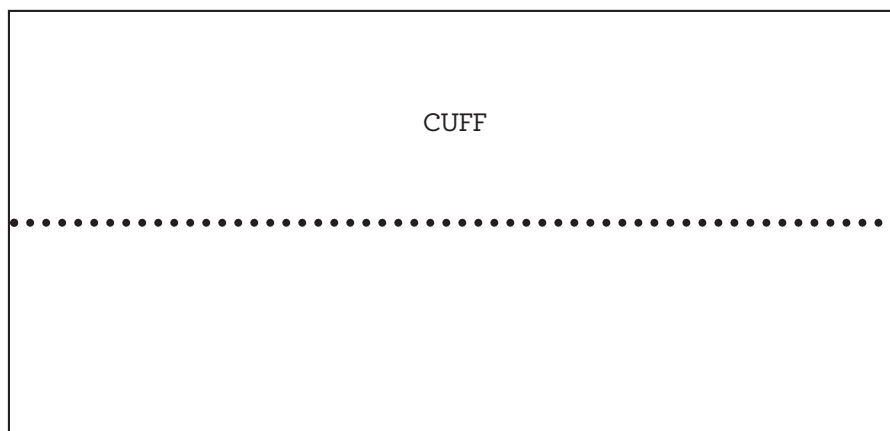
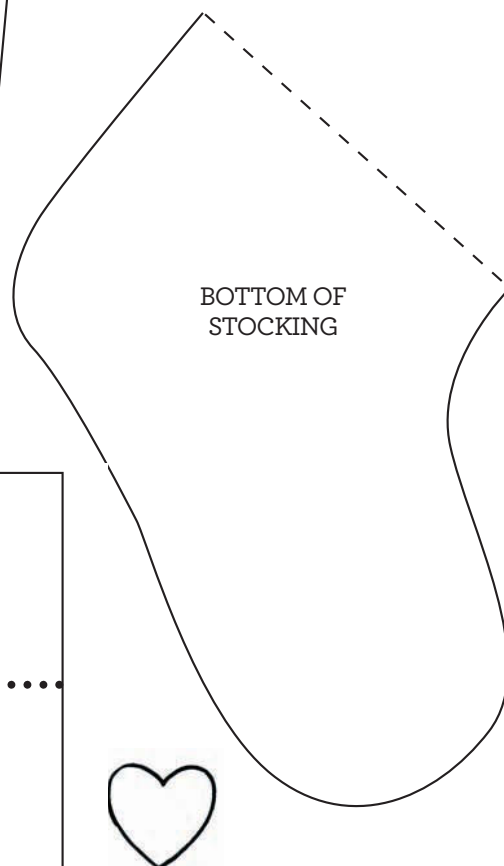
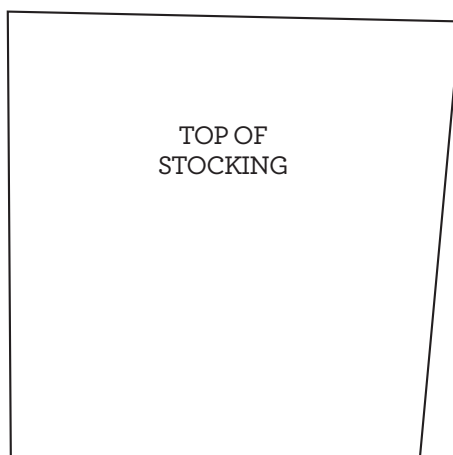
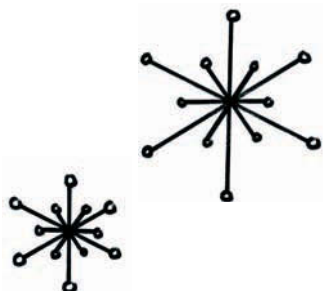
Festive doves

Helen Fitzjohn
Page 46
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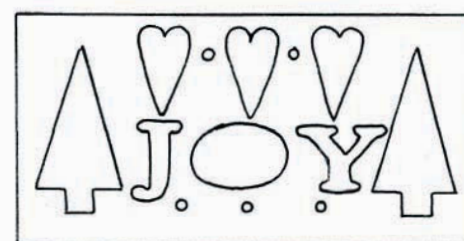
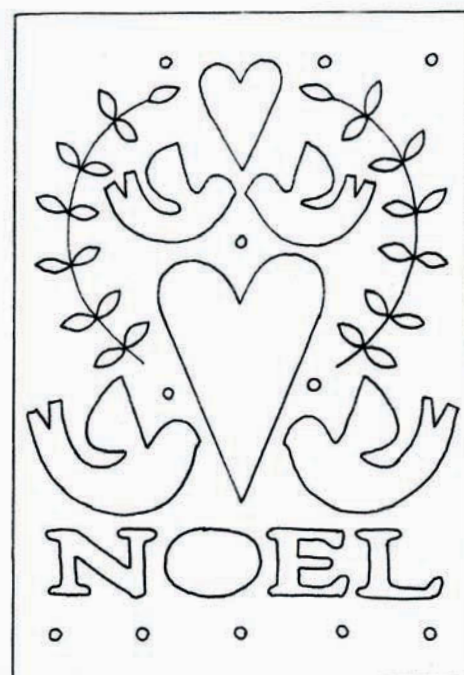
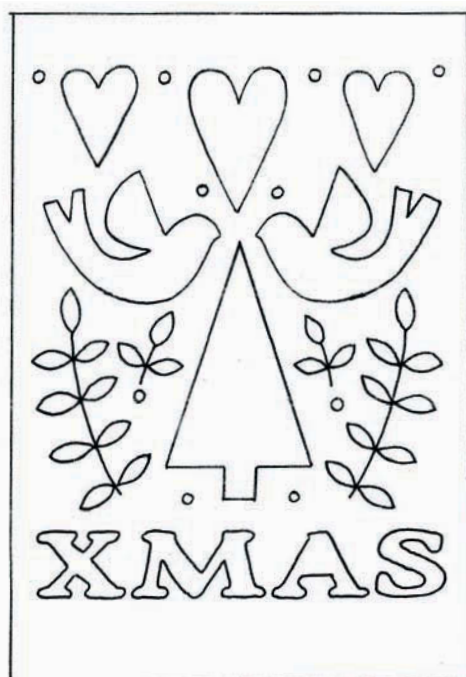
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Projects

- ✱ Make colourful cards to kick the new year off in style
- ✱ Stitch copyright-free lavender sachets with Corinne Bradd's guide
- ✱ Try your hand at silk painting with our mini canvas, card and tag set
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Features

- ✱ We get back to basics with watercolour painting
- ✱ Hear from top crafters, including crocheter Nicki Trench and natural beauty expert Sof McVeigh
- ✱ Handmade Home is back with trendy house motifs
- ✱ Take a trip into the woods with our forest-themed craft trends page

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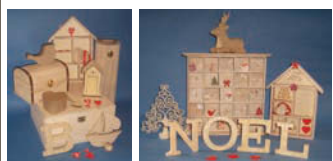
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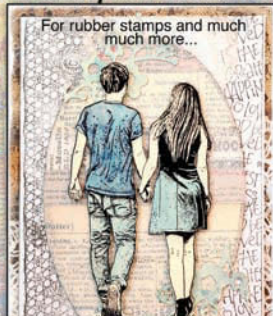


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HOOKED ON....

The beautiful Panorama Collection from Tattered Lace dies. As many of you know, I design each range but I especially love this one



Behind the CAMERA

STEPHANIE WEIGHTMAN SHARES HER CURRENT CRAFTING ESSENTIALS

my craft tips

- ✓ Create your own stamps to co-ordinate with your die-cuts by using the Tattered Lace dies to cut craft foam. You can then adhere this to an acrylic block.
- ✓ Bow makers are one of my favourite craft tools. Suitable for all and at an affordable price, they are a must-have item.
- ✓ If you have lots of beautiful papers that you'd like to turn into cardstock, spray the backs with an adhesive and stick onto 160gsm paper – hey presto!



CRAFT OF THE MONTH

Before you pack away all of your handmade wreaths and decorations after Christmas, why not consider upcycling them and making some beautiful spring wreaths? Use beautiful paper flowers and butterflies, raffia, ribbon and anything else you can think of to create individual, fresh spring decorations. Why not add pouches of lavender too, to give a gorgeous scent to your work?

FAVE THING



The Extra Fine Crystal glitter is an absolute essential. I love to use it with my die-cuts to add some glitz – it looks so pretty and it's such a great price. You can also use it with tape to create perfect borders, or glue pens to highlight certain areas of your designs.

Something I've learned...

I recently purchased a felting machine and I'm so excited about using it for the first time! I'm planning on making some home décor items that will help to warm up the rooms over the coming months.

Hot Product

This mermaid die is so lush – I can't stop using it! It's so elegant and dreamy, and I've seen some gorgeous cards made using it from Tattered Lace fans! You can team it with any colour combination for a quick card fix. Visit createandcraft.tv for more info.



LOOK WHAT I MADE!

This recent make is definitely one of my favourites. Here I have used the Panorama dies to create the tunnel card (you won't believe how easy it is!) as well as the Kaleidoscope dies, which feature butterflies in varying sizes that can be kept in the cardstock or cut away. The sizes of the butterflies allow you to make beautiful trails for every sized card.



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